

Worship of the Living God

† Those who are able are invited to stand

Bold indicates words spoken in unison

Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

Gathering Around the Word

An order of worship offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church’s encounter with the living God. Over time, an order of worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world.

PRELUDE

Blessed Are They That Mourn

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Teresa de Freitas

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Adapted from Psalm 40

Proclaim God’s saving acts,
We do not seal our lips, Lord,
Do not hide Christ's righteousness in your heart;
We speak of God's faithfulness and saving help.
Do not conceal the Holy Spirit's love and faithfulness,
We will proclaim God’s mercy to the world!

† HYMN #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† RESPONSE #581

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 1:1-9, p. 110

Donna Beaver

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:13-16, p. 4

SERMON

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Higher Ground

arr. Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Means universal church, not the Roman Catholic church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

MINUTE FOR MINISTRIES

Maggie Behrooz, First Kids

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

This Little Light of Mine

Neil A. Johnson

† DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending to Share the Word

† HYMN #314

Christ Be Our Light

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D-Major

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
by Carol Sayers and Coe and Holly Brier
in memory of Kelly Sayers Vecchio.

Welcome to First Pres

We are so glad you are here!

FRIENDSHIP PADS in your pews are for recording attendance and for visitors to share their information so that we can share about God’s work here.
CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY CLIPBOARDS are in the narthex.
CHILDCARE (ages 4 and under) is available in the Nursery in our Family Life Center (see an usher for directions).
ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES are available from an usher.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: John Smith, Ryan Hindes (Karen and Denny Wenker’s friend), Acey Worthy, Betty Carli

Susan and Joe Sember on the marriage of their daughter, Anna Jenkins, to Brian Keaveny, on August 6.

Guy and LeeAnna Hoskins on the birth of their granddaughter, Chapel Laine Hoskins on August 17. Chapel’s parents are Chad and Charlotte Hoskins.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston and Glenda Askew, Bill Baker, Mary Cameron, Ron Church, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Richard Franklin, Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Martha Michael, Betty Mohs, Frank Saunders, Jesse Tart, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS: Jackie Burleson, Hannah Galloway, Caroline Snow, Taylor Cook, Jim Taylor, Bob Steele, Colin Dailey, Beffie Cook, Paul Bassett, Sheila Mulkey, Davis Nelson, Suzanne Casey, Jerry White, Melissa Butler, Richard Ervin

ANNIVERSARIES: John and Anne Cave, Jan and Helen Kichefski, Bob and Barb Bruce

We are deeply rooted

GROW: Time to Pray for our Kiddos and Youth! We would love for every family to take a backpack or handprint magnet or two and pray for the child on it! We want our students to feel the thought and love of the congregation through prayer. They are located in the hallway beside Lewis Hall, across from the Welcome Center and just before the Kirby Library.

MUSIC: Our Sanctuary Choir rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM in the choir room below the Sanctuary. Our Bell Tower Ringers are moving to Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 PM in the choir loft in the Sanctuary beginning August 27. If you would like to participate in either/both, contact Teresa de Freitas, our Director of Music Ministries.

GROW: Devotional Drop-In for Young Parents! Are you a parent looking for community at First Pres? Have you ever dropped your child off at Sunday School and been unsure of where to go yourself? Come to the new “Devotional Drop-In” during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45, in the Kirby Library! We will have refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together.

GROW: First Kids has begun, but it’s not too late to join us! Ages: preschool 3-4-year-olds through 5th-grade kids. We begin on Wednesday, August 19.



GROW: First Parents is NEW! On the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning in September, parents can join Pastor Lara at Crafty Buffalo for fellowship and food. Drop off your First Kids, then enjoy some time spent with other parents, 5:45-6:45. First Kids is open to all preschool 3- and 4-year-olds through 5th grade.

GROW: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course - Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 PM, September 9 - Oct 28. What does it actually look like to live a Christian life in our world? Is discipleship more than just being nice and volunteering some hours at church? As we'll explore in our WWJD sermon series this fall, the answer is an unequivocal YES! Jesus calls us to follow him in every aspect of our lives: work, home, finances, friendships, commitments, and more. The Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course taught by respected pastor Pete Scazzero and facilitated here by Kia Creamer will help you do just that: Give God your whole heart and life. Registration is required, and space is limited. If you're interested, email Pastor Lara at pastorlara@firstpressalisbury.org by September 1.

GROW: First Kids needs shepherds. It takes a village of volunteers to put on programming. Please consider helping by being a shepherd. Sign up now!



GROW: Mom’s Village – To better meet the needs of moms, our MomCo program is now Mom's Village and has been updated with new curriculum, new ideas, and a variety of topics to discuss. If you are a mom, please join us for Mom's Village. This will be a time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. New date & time! Beginning in September, Mom's Village will meet during First Kids on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 5:30-7:00.

GROW: Mom’s Village kick-off event! Join us on Sunday, August 30, 2:00-4:00 PM, in the courtyard for some family fun and a chance to learn about the new direction of Mom's Village. The Mom's Village Fun Fest will be filled with games, crafts, food, and light refreshments for the whole family! We hope to see you there.

YOUNG ADULTS: Pastor Hannah is hosting a Dip Off for young adults! Bring your favorite dip to share on Wednesday, August 26, 6:00-8:00 in our courtyard. Dips, games, and fellowship. Invite your friends.

YOUNG ADULTS: Join Pastor Hannah for lunch at 12:15 on Sunday, September 6. Meet in the parking lot or meet us at Monterrey.

GROW: Sisters in Christ Sunday School class is excited to welcome back members and visitors on Sunday, September 13. This class welcomes women of all ages. They will be kicking off this fall with the curriculum "Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer. Be ready to get serious, specific, and strategic in your discipline of prayer using Ephesians 6:10-20. They meet in Room 202. For more info, contact Robin Fisher at 704-662-4665.

GROW: Our Men’s Bible Study with Pastor Josh continues each Tuesday at 6:30 AM in Room 201.

WORSHIP: Worship Scripture Readers wanted. Help share God's word by reading the first scripture lesson at 8:30 or 11:00. Readings will be distributed the week prior. Sign up using the QR code or on the bulletin board by Lewis Hall.



GROW: JOY (Just Older Youth) is headed to dinner and a concert. Friday, September 11, 5:15 for dinner at Romano’s, then on to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church for the 7:00 PM performance of The Moonglows. RSVP to the church office by Sept. 4.

GROW: New Member Class – Have you been visiting with us for a while? Are you interested in learning more about Presbyterians and First Pres? Are you ready to join this family of faith? Then join us for lunch on Sunday, September 13, at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

NOMINATIONS: It’s time to nominate members for Elder and the Nominating Team. Use the insert, call, or email Christine by September 1.

STAFF: Please be aware that your pastors and staff will never text or email you to solicit money, gift cards, or run errands. Other things to watch out for: emails not ending with @firstpressalisbury.org or emails/texts about ‘a private matter.’ Please do not respond to these phishing emails and texts.

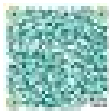
GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Budgeted Pledges through 08-31-26: \$768,311

2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$665,169

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE: Overton Elementary needs our support. We are not doing backpacks this year. Overton has asked for school supplies. Shop using the Wish List QR code! Not a fan of online shopping? Donate wooden #2 pencils, Kleenex, or Clorox wipes. The deadline for dropping off items in the church office is August 26.



YOUTH: Youth Group continues. Sundays from 5:00-7:30 PM. They meet weekly throughout the school year. Invite your friends!

YOUTH: Youth @ the Porch has begun. Join Pastor Josh on Wednesdays at 7:30-8:30 PM on the Musser Gritters’ front porch throughout the fall for pizza, fellowship, and study.

YOUTH: Attention, parents of youth! Help us keep in touch with you and your youth for all of our youth events. Please complete this year’s Information Form asap.



YOUTH: Youth Sunday School TODAY, 9:45-10:30, in the Youth Room. They meet weekly throughout the school year. Food, fellowship, and study.

SERVE: Yoga! Certified Yoga Instructor Felicia Stewart Hoyle leads yoga each Wednesday morning, 9:00-10:15 in Lewis Hall for beginners through advanced levels and for all ages. (No classes on Aug 19 and 26) Suggested donation: \$10.

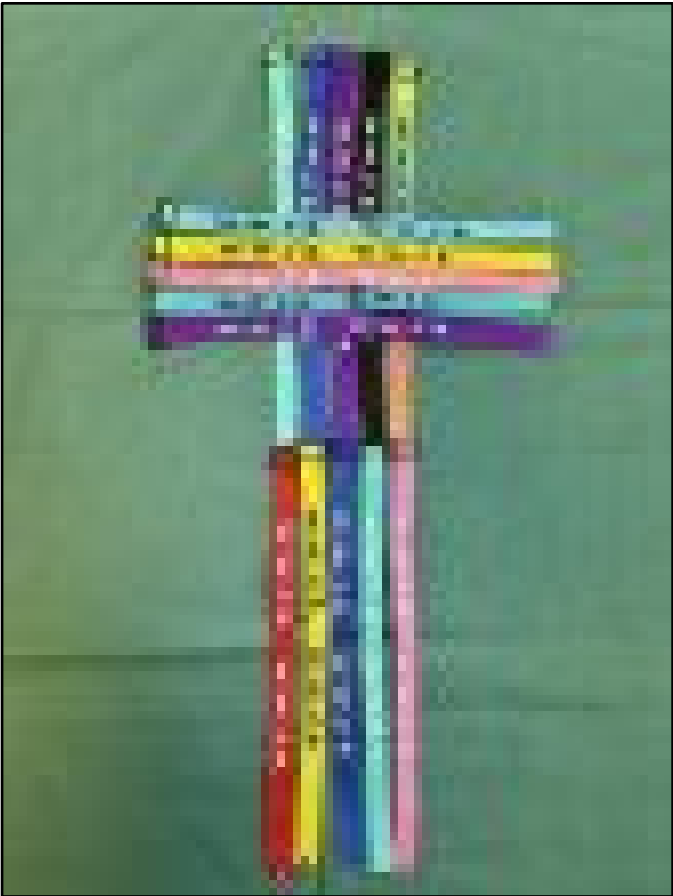
SERVE: Each 1st Sunday of the month, we collect pantry items to help restock the shelves at Rowan Helping Ministries. Your donations of peanut butter, canned goods, and cereals are always in need and greatly appreciated. Next donation day: Sunday, September 6.

Licenses

CCLI Copyright License 839878 / CCLI Streaming License 20111248 / CCLI Video License 505518426 / ONE LICENSE #A-732148

Service of the Lord’s Day

WWJD Sermon on the Mount Series



13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

11:00 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144

www.firstpressalisbury.org | 704-636-1321

Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission