

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 the Meek

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Teresa de Freitas

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

The Lord is my strength and shield,
in him my heart trusts
so I am helped, and my heart exults,
with my song I give thanks to him.
O save your people, be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

† HYMN #318

In Christ There Is No East or West

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, 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

Gwynne Shoaf

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:17-20, p. 4

Dennis McCoy

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:21-26, p. 4

SERMON

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

He Leadeth Me

arr. Carol Tornquist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

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.

*This means universal church, not the Roman Catholic church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace

Mary McDonald

† 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 #316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

BLESSING OF THE OVERTON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March in C Major

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
by Sara Cook, in memory of Bob and Allen Cook, and in honor of her
children, grandchildren, and their families.

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 ACTIVITIES 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, Acey Worthy, Betty Carli

Chanaka and Gayle Yatawara on the marriage of their daughter, Grace, to Chris Losack, on August 22.

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: CC Crofton, Stuart Menees, Russ Adams, Margaret Harris, Libby Gish, James Mead, Cory Menees, George Fisher, Maggie Alexander, Birdie Summitt, Kathy Lawrence, Allison Swaim, Bill Shaw, Anne Saunders, Jody Blackwell

ANNIVERSARIES: Chris and Stacie LaRoche, Bill and Sybil Baker, Will and Alex Paul

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

NEXT SUNDAY: Adultery, Divorce, and Sexuality - Next week in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus will teach on the above topics. To faithfully explore this teaching, we will be excusing children under 10 and any others, as parents wish, from worship to join Megan Shaw for a short Children’s Church during the sermon. Children will rejoin their parents in worship during the Apostles’ Creed.

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.

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: potty-trained 3-4-year-olds through 5th-grade kids. Bible lessons, crafts, science, music, and more. Join us!



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. See you on September 2!

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@firstpresssalisbury.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 TODAY, 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: Are you 18-40ish? Join Pastor Hannah for lunch at 12:15 on September 6, in the parking lot after late worship, or meet us at Monterrey.

YOUNG ADULTS: Join us on September 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Youth Room for Silent Book/Craft Club! Bring that book you never have time for or the craft that never seems to end. We'll carve out time for it all as we hang out together!

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 55+) 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 *Moonglows*. RSVP to the church office by September 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.

5-WEEK BOOK STUDY: Are we more than machines? Is free will an illusion? Join Trevor Eppheimer on Wednesdays at 11:00, October 7 through November 4, for a book study on *Am I just my brain?* by Sharon Dirckx. Sign up by emailing: teppheimer@hoodseminary.edu. Sponsored by the Messinger-Williams Community Education Initiative. Space is limited. Books are available on Amazon.

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 @firstpresssalisbury.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: \$675,325

OFFERING COUNTER: We need a volunteer to help count the Sunday offering on the second Monday of the month. Please contact Christina Lewis if you are interested.

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

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

YOUTH: Youth @ the Porch! Join Pastor Josh on Wednesdays at 7:30-8:30 PM on the Musser Gritters' front porch (117 Maupin Ave) 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, 9:45-10:30, in the Youth Room, weekly throughout the school year. Food, fellowship, and study. Bring your friends.

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. Suggested donation: \$10.

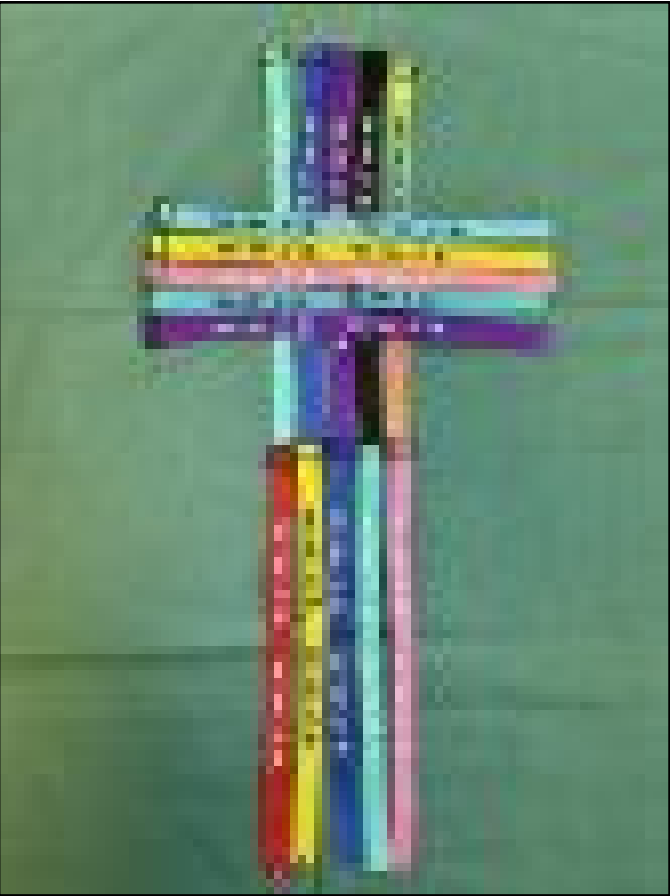
SERVE: Each 1st Sunday of the month, we collect pantry items to help restock the shelves at Rowan Helping Ministries. Your donations of peanut butter, canned goods, and cereals are always in need and greatly appreciated. Next donation day: Sunday, September 6.

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Service of the Lord's Day

WWJD Sermon on the Mount Series



14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2026

11:00 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144

www.firstpresssalisbury.org | 704-636-1321

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission