

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

Meditation on “HYFRYDOL”

Paul Fey

Teresa de Freitas

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God’s mercy endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord for the Book of Genesis.

God’s mercy endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord even for dysfunctional family trees.

God’s mercy endures forever.

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† HYMN #41

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

CONFESSION OF SIN

God of our incredible beginning, we confess that we have sinned against you by neglecting your word in Scripture and in worship. We are your dysfunctional family tree. We’ve held grudges, let judgment guide our steps, and allowed violence to exist in our midst. We settle for half steps rather than simple obedience to you. Turn our distrustful hearts back to you; help us trust in your mercy and turn all our evil back toward your good.

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

Megan Shaw

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-10, p. 2

John Cave

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 50:15-21, p. 46

SERMON

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

My Savior’s Love

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Assurance

John Ness Beck

† 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 #275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and are given by Ryan, Meredith & Camden Honeycutt in honor of all the First Pres church members and staff who gave their time to help facilitate the Rowan-Salisbury Schools Summer Meals site here at the church. 563 lunches were served to children this summer. It was our site’s 10th year operating!

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: Antonio Cervantes Anguiano, Acey Worthy, Betty Carli

John and Lesleigh Drye on the birth of their grandson, Elliott Alexander Glontz, on July 17. Elliott’s parents are Alexandra and Alex Glontz.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston 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, Barry Sang, Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jesse Tart, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS: Scott Hay, Ed Whitley, William Preston, Rose Hall, Emmie Paul, Mark Bryd, Bob Lewis, Nick Langdon, Jeff Beaver, Barbara Garwood, Jeff Billings, Steve Ashley

ANNIVERSARIES: Steve and Barbara Safrit, Ed and Mindy Muire

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

GROW: Fall Kickoff is here! Join us Sunday, August 16, 9:45-10:45 in the courtyard for refreshments, games, fellowship, and more. See what’s happening with First Kids, Young Adults, Mom’s Village, Children’s, Youth, and Adult Sunday School, and so much more. Bring your family and enjoy!

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 Celebration Hall below the Sanctuary beginning August 27. If you would like to participate in either/both, contact Teresa de Freitas in the church office.

MUSIC: Join us on Sunday, August 16, at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary for our First Pres Concert Series featuring the Astralis Ensemble. This award-winning trio consists of a cello, flute, and harp. Don’t miss these ‘scary-good’ musicians!

GROW: Devotional Drop-In for 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 at First Pres! We will have refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together. Kick off August 16!

GROW: Calling all preschool 3-4 year-olds through 5th-grade kids, it’s time to sign up for First Kids! We will begin earlier this year, so mark your calendars now for Wednesday, August 19. Parents, we will also have a parent meeting on August 19. Come for dinner and stay for a meeting to hear about expectations, the calendar, and new opportunities!

GROW: First Kids needs volunteers. It takes a village. Watch for signups to begin soon. Cooks, cleanup teams, table parents, and shepherds are needed!

GROW: 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.

GROW: The 2026-2027 Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study will kick off on Monday, September 14, at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This year’s book is titled “United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other,” Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. Contact Joyce Durkee asap if you would like a copy of the book.

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

GROW: 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.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

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 07-31-26: \$672,272
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$620,634

GIVING: Make back-to-school time and fall less hectic by setting up recurring gifts! Set up regular, recurring donations through our secure online giving site – www.firstpresssalisbury.org/give.

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

RACE & JUSTICE: Join us for our 2nd Sunday Cinema TODAY, at 5:00, in Everyman’s Bible Classroom. Our movie this month is “Selma,” sponsored by the RJM Team.

SERVE: Overton Elementary needs our support. We are not doing backpacks this year. Overton has asked for school supplies. The deadline for dropping off items in the church office is August 26.

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: Mark your calendars now. Youth @ the Porch begins on Wednesday, August 12, at 7:30 PM, on the Musser Gritters’ front porch. They meet weekly through November. Pizza, fellowship, and study.

YOUTH: Youth Sunday School begins on August 16, 9:45-10:30, in the Youth Room. They meet weekly throughout the school year. Food, fellowship, and study.

YOUTH: Youth Group begins on August 16, 5:00-7:30 PM. They meet weekly throughout the school year. Invite your friends and be sure we have parent and student emails up-to-date to keep up with events.

SERVE: United Way Day of Caring. The Showing Up Team is looking for volunteers to join as a church group to help with United Way’s Day of Caring on August 27. Please contact Mike Drinkard (770-283-9046 or mikedrunkard@gmail.com) if you’d like to join this mission outreach effort of First Pres.

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: God’s Table @ RHM – Volunteer now to help Pastor Hannah lead a brief time of worship at Rowan Helping Ministries (Jeannie’s Kitchen at 226 N Long St) before serving lunch together. Two dates to choose from: Aug 23 and Sept 20. Hours: 11:15-1:00.

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.

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Service of the Lord’s Day

**God’s Dysfunctional Family Tree
An Incredible Beginning**



11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 9, 2026
11:00 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144
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Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission