

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

Teresa de Freitas

Blessed Are You When Men Shall Revile You

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Greeting & Announcements

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† Call to Worship

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Adapted from Psalm 63

Come, earnestly seek God!
Thirst for God as in a dry and weary land.
We have seen God in the sanctuary.
We have beheld God’s power and glory.
Let us praise God as long as we live
for Christ’s love is better than life.
The Spirit will satisfy us as with rich foods,
And with songs in our hearts, we will praise God.

† Hymn #722

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

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

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-16, p. 211

Donna Beaver

Scripture: Matthew 6:16-18, 22-23, p. 6

Sermon

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

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

Promise Moment

Vincent and Holly Muñoz

Offering

Offertory

Amazing Grace

John Rutter

† 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 #838

Standing on the Promises

† Benediction

Postlude

Short Fanfare

Paul Fey



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: Bob Lewis, Chris LaRoche, Elayne McCoy, Linda Thurston, Harold and Susan Mesimer, Jean Wurster

Stephen and Andrea Bullock on the marriage of their daughter, Katie, to Christian Kasai, on October 3.

Martha Bostian on the death of her sister, Joan Patricia Goldwire Gaither Denton, on September 18.

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

BIRTHDAYS: Jan Williams, Lara Musser Gritter, Emerson Lee, Larry Gish, Kimberly Broadhurst, Elle Blankenship, Antonio Cervantes Anguiano

ANNIVERSARY: David and Karen Carmichael

We are deeply rooted

PRAYER WALKS: Prayer serves as the channel to God; faith is the sustaining trust that carries us forward; hope is the confident expectation rooted in God’s promises; love is the driving force behind all we do; and service is the visible expression of that love in action. Together, these elements form a continuous cycle: prayer strengthens faith, faith nurtures hope, hope deepens love, love inspires service, and service ultimately leads us back into prayer. Prayer is our spiritual foundation. With this in mind, join us for Prayer Walks as we intentionally pray and walk together around First Pres. Mondays now through October 19, at 10:00 AM. Meet Kyna Grubb in the parking lot as she leads the walks.

CHILDREN:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:45-10:45 in Classroom 206. 3s through 5th grade.

FIRST KIDS: Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 in Fellowship Hall. Potty-trained 3s through 5th grade. Dinner, Bible lessons, music, crafts, science, and more!



YOUTH:

LIVING THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP: Sundays at 9:45 AM, in Classroom 223. Snacks, Bible study, & fellowship.

GROUP: Sundays at 5:00 PM. Classroom 223. Snack, study, & fellowship.

BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, on the Musser Gritter front porch. Bible, pizza, and fellowship. (117 Maupin Ave)

YOUNG ADULTS:

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Wednesday, October 21, 6:30-7:30, at New Sarum. Join Pastor Hannah for a little theology, food and drinks, and lots of fellowship.

ADULTS:

MEN: Bible Study. Tuesdays at 6:30 AM in Classroom 201 with Pastor Josh.

MOMS: Mom’s Village. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00, in Classroom 223. A time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. Childcare is available.

YOUNG PARENTS: Devotional Drop-In. Sunday School, Sundays at 9:45, in the Kirby Library. Refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together.

PARENTS: First Parents, 1st Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45, with Pastor Lara. Drop your kids off at First Kids, then enjoy food and fellowship with other parents at Crafty Buffalo.

BOOK STUDY: A Trevor Eppehimer Book Study. Wednesdays at 11:00. October 7 - November 4. *Am I just my brain?* by Sharon Dirckx. Sign up by emailing teppehimer@hoodseminary.edu. Sponsored by the Messenger-Williams Community Education Initiative. Space is limited. Books are available on Amazon.

CONCERT: Teresa de Freitas in Concert. As part of Teresa’s doctoral research, she will present two concerts. The first concert is Sunday, October 18, at 3:00, in the Sanctuary, with guest pianist Zeph Mussman. The second concert is on Sunday, October 25, at 3:00, in the Sanctuary, with pianists Sylvia Krusac, Anna Bossert, and Shaoey Pace. Please come out to support Teresa as she nears the completion of her doctorate degree from the Hugh Hodson School of Music, University of Georgia!

JOY: Just Older Youth is planning dinner and a play. Friday, October 16. Dinner at 5:00 at Santos, then to the Piedmont Players’ *Fiddler on the Roof*. Get your own play tickets and let them know you want to sit with JOY. Call the church office to sign up for dinner.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Join these ladies for Bible Study on the 1st Mondays of the month, now through May. Contact moderator Denise Fink for more information.

YOGA: Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15. Certified instructor. All levels. \$10 suggested donation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:45-10:45. Various classes. Ask a pastor for class suggestions to find your right fit.

UNIFIED SUNDAY SCHOOL: Each Sunday in October, we remember all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We are entrusted to steward these gifts through the church, in the community, and through our very being. This giving season, we are inviting the congregation to join us for three unified Sunday School opportunities on the topic of stewardship and its role in your life and in the work of First Pres. Join us!

- Sunday, October 4 - with Pastors Lara and Hannah in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, October 11 - Congregational State of the Church in Lewis Hall (come for food and fellowship)
- Sunday, October 18 - with Pastor Josh and the Give Team in Fellowship Hall

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Budgeted Pledges through 09-30-26: \$864,350

2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$800,200

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE:

MAXWELL CHAMBERS TRUST: The biannual meeting of the trust will be held on Monday, October 19, at 6:00, in Everyman’s Bible Class. We need all current and former Elders to attend.

FOOD PANTRY: Rowan Helping Ministries food donation days are the 1st Sundays of each month. They always need: Peanut butter, cereals, and canned goods. If you cannot make it on the 1st Sunday, drop off your donations anytime at the church office. Next donation day: Sunday, November 1.

BLOOD DRIVE: Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, October 13, 2:00-6:30, in Fellowship Hall. Sign up now for your appointment.



ADULTS: Children’s Ministry Needs: Our children need you! Are you able to lend your time on a Sunday morning or for a few hours on Wednesday evening? Have you taken Child Protection Training, or are you willing to do so? We need your help in shepherding the next generation!

Children’s Sunday School



First Kids



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: 3 Ways to Share God’s Love!

1. Take a shoebox home, fill it up, and return it to the church by November 9.
2. Go online and build a shoebox.
3. Give to First Pres OCC, and the Team will buy the supplies to fill the shoeboxes.

Operation Christmas Child



First Pres Giving



For more information on classes and events, visit our website at www.firstpresssalisbury.org or call the church office at 704-636-1321.

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Service of the Lord’s Day

WWJD Sermon on the Mount Series



20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 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