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 the Pure in Heart
Roberta Rowland-Raybold

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

✝CALL TO WORSHIP — Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
So my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him.
My help and my God.

✝HYMN #300 — *We Are One in the Spirit*

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

SPECIAL MUSIC — First Kids

The Golden Rule
Susan Nipp

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:6-11 p. 147 — Donna Beaver

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:12-14 p. 6

SERMON — Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

I Love to Tell the Story
Arr. Carol Tornquist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✝AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *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 — *All Things New*
Elaine Hagenberg

✝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 #754 — *Help Us Accept Each Other*

✝BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE — *Trumpet Tune in C-Major*
Paul Fey

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of our parents (grandparents), Paul & Sue Fisher and George & Rita Ennis by Steve & Robin Fisher and their family.

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: Bill Carter, Myrna Crocker, Marny Hendrick, Scotty Benson (Roxanne Myers's cousin), Mary Ann McCubbin (Cindi Graham's friend), Acey Worthy, Diane Vigil

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston and Glenda Askew, Bill Baker, Betty Carli, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Bob Lewis, Elayne McCoy, Harold Mesimer, Martha Michael, Wib Manuel, Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jesse Tart, Bill Troxler, Jeanette Whitley, Jean Wurster

BIRTHDAYS: Barb Bruce, Gordon Hurley, Martha Michael, John Goodman, Stewbo Adams, Marjie Aggers, Randy Chandler, Ben McAreavy, Liza Hoizer, Mike Morris, Maggie Behrooz, Merritt Menees, Lydia Hayes, Dennis McCoy, Ozzie Reynolds

ANNIVERSARIES: John and Melissa Harrington, Harold and Susan Mesimer, Mark and Teresa Rufty

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

Over the last couple of years, the Session of First Pres has been exploring what the next chapter of faithfulness to God might look like. We are in a period of discernment, exploring how our campus supports and potentially limits our ability to live into our current calling. We are considering a short list of capital projects for our campus. We need your input. Below you will find two QR codes. One links to a Vision Statement describing the projects we are considering, and the other links to a survey to share your feedback. Your perspective is essential to our future discernment.

Vision Statement **Survey**

EVERYONE:

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Packing Party will be held TODAY, 6:00-7:00, in Fellowship Hall. Bring your family and enjoy pizza, fellowship, and fun while we pack shoe boxes.

TWAM SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP: Join us on Sunday, November 22, at 5:00 in Lewis Hall for our annual TWAM Soup Supper and Worship. Enjoy a great fall meal of soups, salads, and desserts. After dinner, we will have a brief time of worship. We will accept a free-will donation to help pay for the 2027 TWAM Mexico Mission Trip. Invite your family and friends.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Join us for a bite of lunch, fellowship, and lots of decorating after the 11:00 service on Sunday, November 22. Bring your family. Many hands make light work.

CHRISTMAS STAR TREE: Help children in Rowan County have a brighter Christmas. Stop by the Star Tree (Sanctuary Narthex or Lewis Hall foyer), choose a star, record your name on the list, and then purchase a $30 gift. Return them to church in a gift bag with the star attached. Do not gift wrap the presents. Deadline to return: December 6.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS: Join us for Advent wreath-making and a children's craft during our annual Countdown to Christmas. Sunday, November 29, 9:45-10:45, in Lewis Hall. Bring your family. No Children's Sunday School that day.

ADVENT GATHERINGS: Stop by for our annual Advent Gatherings, a time for fellowship and snacks in Fellowship Hall. Sundays, November 29, December 6, 13, and 20, 9:15-10:00.

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, 9:45, in Classroom 223. Snacks, Bible study, & fellowship.

GROUP: Sundays, 5:00, in Classroom 223. Snacks, study, & fellowship.

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

ADULTS:

LONGEST NIGHT: Our Longest Night service will be held on Sunday, December 20, at 7:00 pm, in Lewis Hall. This is a service of prayer, music, and reflection.

MEN: Bible Study. Tuesdays, 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Join these ladies for Bible Study on the 1st Mondays of the month in Fellowship Hall, 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.

JOY is looking for volunteers for the Day School's Thanksgiving Tea on Friday, November 20, from 10:00-11:00, in Lewis Hall. Volunteers will assist children with snacks and a craft directed by the teachers. Contact the church office to sign up.

JOY will attend the free Christmas service of Lessons and Carols in Keppel Auditorium at Catawba College on Tuesday, December 1. Meet at 6:00 in the Peeler Crystal Lounge. After the service, they will head to Culver's for dessert. Contact the church office to sign up.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

GIVING UPDATE:
2026 Budgeted Pledges through 11-30-26: $1,056,427
2026 Year-to-Date Received: $976,466

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE:

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 days: Sunday, December 6 and January 3

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!

First Kids



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

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Service of the Lord's Day



25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 15, 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