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

Melody
Paul Fey

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

✝CALL TO WORSHIP — Rev. Hannah Ostlund
Adapted from Psalm 18

The Lord is our rock,
our fortress and our deliverer;
God is our rock,
in whom we take refuge;
our shield and salvation,
our stronghold and strength.
The Lord lives!
Praise be to our rock!

✝HYMN #268 — *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

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 — Stephen Bullock

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:1-4 p. 181 — Donna Beaver

Anthem — Bell Tower Ringers

Rondo Jubilee
Brenda Autin

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:13-29 p. 7

SERMON — Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Jesus Shall Reign
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.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY — Blaine Smith, Brandon Aron, trumpets

To the Lamb on the Throne
Dan Forrest

✝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 #363 — *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

✝BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - Coronation
Gordon Young

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, Acey Worthy

Tyler and Bridget Brown on the birth of their daughter, Leona Wren Brown, on November 15. Her big brother is Milo.

Coleman Bergsma and Caroline Van Heyningen on their marriage on November 7. Coleman is the son of Robert and Elizabeth Bergsma.

Beverly Cobb on the death of her husband, Ty Cobb, on November 17.

Terry and Sheila Mulkey on the birth of their grandson, Mark Charles Mulkey, on November 18. Mark's parents are Corie and Tyler Mulkey, and his older siblings are Stella and Graham.

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, Mary Ann McCubbin (Cindi Graham's friend), Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jesse Tart, Bill Troxler, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS: Meredith Poor, Blaine Shellhorn, Linda Thurston, Bill Carter, Richard Kurey, Tony Blackwell, Gary Hall, Griffin Creamer, Gail Drinkard, Jack Richard, Jake Lescoe, Parker Jenkins

ANNIVERSARIES: David and Carole Simmons, Doug and Lynn Miller, Rip and Debbie Collins, Mike and Gail Drinkard

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

The red rosebud this morning is in honor of the God-given life of Leona Wren Brown, daughter of Tyler and Bridget Brown.

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. There are a handful of printed copies for those who do not have access to a computer.

Vision Statement

Survey

EVERYONE:

TWAM SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP: Join us TODAY at 5:00 in Lewis Hall for our annual TWAM Soup Supper and Worship. Enjoy a great fall meal of soup, salad, and dessert. 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 TODAY. 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. *Hot chocolate will also be available in the Lewis Hall foyer during Advent, sponsored by the Mary and Martha class.

OVERTON TEACHER GIFT BAG PACKING: Join in to help pack holiday gift bags for the Overton teachers and staff on Friday, December 4, at 10 AM, in the Welcome Center. Enjoy some great fellowship while preparing gifts for the hard-working teachers and staff at Overton Elementary School.

POINSETTIA & WREATH SPONSOR TIME: Tis the season to sponsor our poinsettias ($10) and wreaths ($15). Please include your dedication. Sign up with the QR Code. All poinsettias need to be taken home after the services on Christmas Eve.



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.

YOUNG ADULTS:

YA CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 18, 6:00-9:00, join Pastor Hannah for food, fellowship, and fun at her home. Sign up now!



ADULTS:

MILITARY ADDRESSES NEEDED: Blessing Bunch will be sending out Christmas Cards soon. We need addresses for members in the military. Call the church office before Nov.30.

JOY: Just Older Youth will attend the free Christmas service of Lessons and Carols at Catawba College in Keppel Auditorium on Tuesday, December 1. Meet in the Peeler Crystal Lounge at 6:00 so we can sit together in the auditorium. After the service, we will head to Culver's for ice cream or other desserts. Contact the church to sign up for this event.

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, on the 1st Wednesdays of the month, 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.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

GIVING UPDATE:
2026 Budgeted Pledges through 11-30-26: $1,056,427
2026 Year-to-Date Received: $987,725

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.

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

Service of the Lord's Day



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 22, 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