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
Flute Prelude on "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"
Paul Fey

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Hannah Ostlund

✝LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT — Troy Creamer and Owen Morris
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, the darkness will not, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Alleluia! Amen!

✝HYMN #82 — *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CONFESSION OF SIN — Rev. Josh Musser Gritter
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 113 — *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 p. 542 — John Grubb

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:24-37, p. 47

SERMON

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION — Ryan Graebert, cello
The God of Abraham Praise
arr. David S. Abramsky

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✝AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — Rev. Lara 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.

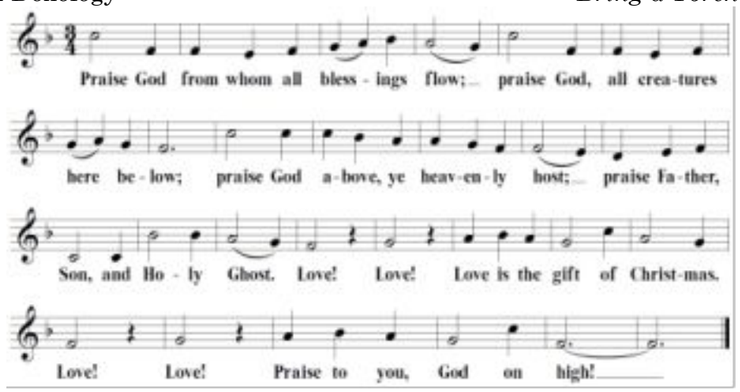
*This means universal church, not the Roman Catholic church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY — Ryan Graebert, cello
O Come, Emmanuel
Elaine Hagenberg

✝Doxology — *Bring a Torch*



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended by Christ and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome of all, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered to you. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION
A Stable Lamp is Lighted
David Hurd

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING TO SHARE THE WORD

✝HYMN #106 — *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

✝BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE — *Advent Postlude*
Paul Fey

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in anticipation of Advent, which brings the good news that a failing humanity can be reconciled to a holy God. They are given by the Julie Steele Flower Fund.

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: Rosalie Laughlin, Betty Carli, Acey Worthy

Jeff Richard and family on the death of his father, Francis Harrison Richard, on November 10.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston and Glenda Askew, Bill Baker, Bill Carter, Myrna Crocker, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, 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: Parker Jenkins, David Whitley, Sharon Hoffman, Janet Loeblein, Gabe Steinman, John Drye, Mark Grover, Barry Sang, Graham Smith, Kathy Vestal

ANNIVERSARY: Jeff and Lyn Beaver

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED
COMMUNION ELDER: Sherry Bryan

EVERYONE:

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.

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.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER: Join us for our annual Christmas dinner in Lewis Hall on Sunday, December 13, at 5:00. Last names A-E bring desserts and last names F-Z bring side dishes. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun.

CHILDREN:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY: All children from 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to join us on Sunday, December 20, in classroom 206 from 9:45 to 10:45 for a birthday party for baby Jesus! We'll have treats and fun!

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: $995,951

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE:

THREE WIDE Foundation is seeking volunteers for the December 15 dinner event in Lewis Hall. Areas of need are: Prayer, Serving, Set-up, Clean-up, Desserts, and most importantly, showing the love of Christ to our participants. Contact Steve Thomas at threewidefoundation@gmail.com. Thank you!

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 | Children's Sunday School | Children's Message

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



Art by Scott Erickson

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOPE

November 29, 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