

\* Confession of Sin

**Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are drawn away by the love of other “gods” – the false gods of prosperity and materialism, of selfishness and pride, of party and tribe. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit, that we might learn to love as you love and to live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response 581

***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**

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Baptism & Children’s Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 6:1-15

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

**Responding to the Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God's grace is amazing. Jesus is the good shepherd who seeks us when we are lost, who carries us home in his arms, rejoicing. Jesus welcomes all who are prodigal and welcomes all that is prodigal in us. Our belonging to God does not depend on us. We cannot earn God's love or secure our salvation. We cannot force God to cease loving or saving us. The Holy Spirit empowers us as the church to depend**

**on God's grace, to extend grace to all who are lost, least, or lowly, and to offer grace even to our enemies.**

**In Jesus, we see God’s heart revealed for all time: our very existence is sustained by God's grace. God does not condemn us. God loves us. God’s grace is all we need and is perfected in our weakness. Nothing can separate us from God's boundless love in Christ.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

Minute for Mission Lynn Hales

Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Sanctuary Choir  
Trumpet: Blaine Smith

*How Firm a Foundation*  
Arr. Dave Williamson

\* 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 625 *How Great Thou Art*

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response 542  
*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*  
Verse 2  
(Everyone is invited to sing.)

Postlude

*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
Arr. Marilyn Arison

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Ryan, Meredith, & Camden Honeycutt in honor of all the members of First Presbyterian Church who volunteered their time serving over 500 lunches to children in our community through the RSS Summer Meals Program. Orange is the official color of hunger awareness.**

**The roses are given in honor of Kevin, Jessica, Lincoln, Robert, and Marilyn Settineri by Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas R. Holman, the proud and grateful parents and grandparents.**

**Joys and Concerns**

Andy Taylor (Brian Taylor’s father), Andy Rowland (Jared Rowland’s father), Paul Scarborough (Doug Glasgow’s friend), Elayne McCoy, Walter Broadwell (Elizabeth Calvert’s cousin), Sue Hayworth

**Continuing Concerns**

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Marilyn Beaver (David Beaver’s mother), Scott Hay, Charles Hoffman (Sharon Hoffman’s brother), Steve Hunter, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan’s mother), Elizabeth Lewis Romska, Margie Shoaf (Jeff Shoaf’s grandmother), John Smith, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington, Acey Worthy

**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:** Briggs Hudson, Becky Carli, Glenda Long, Gail Bankett, David Caldwell, Alan Fowler, Glenn Hudson, Meghan Maxey, Pierce Ogden, Marcia Reamer, Pat Weber, Wesley Lanning, Wilson Cook, Richard Franklin, Brooks Kennedy

**Anniversary:** Bob and Margaret Harris, David and Sandy Lee

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**Ministry Area – Deeply Rooted**

**Welcome!** We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you’re here and hope you feel God’s presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for children 4 and younger. Please see an usher for more information.

**Baptism** – This morning, Kevin Settineri is presented for reaffirmation of baptism. He and his wife, Jessica, present their children, Lincoln, Robert, and Marilyn, for baptism.

**Music** – Have you ever wanted to sing with our choir but didn't want to make a year-long commitment? Then now is your time! Come as you are and meet the choir on **August 4**, at 10:30, in the Sanctuary. They will briefly rehearse then lead the congregation in worship. No experience required!

**Music** – Our next 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at First Pres Concert will be held on August 16, at 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. We will feature a trio of talented musicians: Teresa de Freitas on piano, along with Salisbury Symphony's Eileen Young, principal clarinet, and Ryan Graebert, first cello. The concert is free for all to attend! We guarantee that this evening will leave you absolutely delighted.

**Grow in Faith** – Unified Sunday School continues through August 4, at 9:45, in the Fellowship Hall. Our series is the Revolving Reverends. A unified activity for children grades K-5 will also be offered at 9:45 in Classroom 206.

**Grow in Faith** – Children's Sunday School Teachers - Summer planning is in full effect for the fall, and we are looking for volunteers to lead our children in preschool, elementary, and preteen classes. If you have a heart for teaching, please let Amanda Hathcock know you are interested.

**Grow in Friendship – JOY (Just Older Youth 55+)** will enjoy their annual Pizza Night @ the Worthy's on Friday, August 9, at 6:00. No need to worry about the heat; their event space is air-conditioned! 321 E Bank St. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Call the church office to sign up.

**Care: Prayer Warriors** –Who are Prayer Warriors? They are a small but friendly group that strongly believes in the power of prayer. The group meets weekly via ZOOM and keeps a daily list of prayer needs. If you have a prayer concern of any kind or are interested in joining the group, please contact Diane Coggin. Email [ddcoggin54@gmail.com](mailto:ddcoggin54@gmail.com), text or call 704-754-3650.

**Retreat** – Did you miss your chance to join us on retreat at Camp Caraway, August 23-25? See Gwynne Shoaf or Amanda Hathcock to sign up – there is room for you!

**CORE**

**Volunteers** – Nursery – we are looking for a few members who would like to join the schedule as a volunteer for our nursery. If

you would be willing to guide our littlest saints on Sunday morning, please let Amanda Hathcock know: Phone: 704-636-1321 or email: [ahathcock@firstpressalisbury.org](mailto:ahathcock@firstpressalisbury.org).

**Media & Communications: Sermon Podcasts** – We are now on Podbean, Spotify, and iHeart Radio! Listen on your favorite site or our website. Look for: *First Presbyterian Church Salisbury NC Sermons*. Don't forget that our YouTube channel has full-length videos available!

**Staff: Don't assume we know** - Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

**BRANCHING OUT**

**Showing Up** – Backpacks for Overton Students in Need! We will dedicate all backpacks on August 4, so please consider purchasing a child's backpack or two now. Add \$10 in cash to the front pocket for school supplies and drop them off at the church office.

**Reach** – Yoga in Fellowship Hall continues on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:15 am throughout August. Beginners and the not-very-flexible are welcome! A suggested donation of \$10 per class is welcome.

**Blood Drive** – Have you signed up for the July 30 Red Cross Blood Drive at First Pres yet? There is still time! Our hours are 2:00-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.



**This Week's Events**

|         |           |  |
|---------|-----------|--|
| July 28 | 9:45      | Unified Adult Sunday School, K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Room 206 |
|         | 11:00     | Unified Worship  |
|         | 12:00     | Legacy 200 Lunch   |
| July 30 | 10:00     | Staff  |
|         | 12:00     | Staff Lunch  |
|         | 2:00-6:30 | Red Cross Blood Drive  |
| July 31 | 9:00      | Yoga   |
| Aug 1   | 6:30      | Life Center Rehearsal  |
| Aug 3   | 9:00      | Church Women United  |
| Aug 4   | 8:30      | LCW Worship  |
|         | 9:45      | Sunday School  |
|         | 11:00     | Sanctuary Worship  |

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**First Presbyterian Church**  
 308 W Fisher St Salisbury NC 28144  
 704-636-1321 [www.firstpressalisbury.org](http://www.firstpressalisbury.org)

**First Presbyterian Church**

July 28, 2024

11:00 am



**Missional Priorities**

Spirit-Centered Discipleship      Friendships Across Differences  
 Hands-on Local Mission          Embracing the Unchurched

**Worship of the Living God**

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas  
*How Great Thou Art*  
 Arr. Chris Rice

Welcome Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

All your works shall give thanks to you,  
**O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.**

The Lord upholds all who are falling  
**and raises up all who are bowed down.**

You open your hand,  
**satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

The Lord is just and kind,  
**The Lord is near to all who call on God.**

\* Hymn 757 *Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples*