

* Song *It's Christmas*
words and music by Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash

* Confession of Sin Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
**God of Christmas light,
You took on flesh and came into the world
for such a time as this,
yet we do not trust your timing.
We rush through the joy of your birth
and hurry to exact our will on your world.
We struggle to wait, and watch, and listen.
Slow us down. Quiet our hearts.
Help us to be still and know that you are God.
So that we might marvel at your birth
and rejoice that you are with us.
Amen.**

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Musical Response
Angels We Have Heard on High
words and music by Chris Tomlin | James Chadwick

Scripture: Matthew 12:15-21

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Song *Waiting Here for You*
words and music by Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Martin Smith

Second Lesson Luke 1: 26-35, 38 Jennifer Flynn

Song *Be Born in Me (Mary)*
words and music by Bernie Herms | Nichole Nordeman

Third Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23 Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Song *His Name Shall Be*
words and music by Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 Brady Folwer

Song *The First Noel*
words and music by Pete Kipley | Phil Wickham

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11 Dr. Randy Kirby

Song *How Many Kings*
words and music by Jason Germain | Marc Martel

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory *Jesus Christ Is Born*
words and music by Mac Powell

* Doxology *Doxology (BRING A TORCH)*
words by Thomas Ken & Ken Bible | music from a French melody |
arr. John Stafford

* Prayer of Dedication

* Song *Joy to the World* with *Shout for Joy*
words and music by Isaac Watts | G.F. Handel |
Paul Baloche | Jason Ingram | Lincoln Brewster

* Benediction

Postlude

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

**The flowers today are given to the glory of God
and in honor of their children and grandchildren:
Dallas, Austin, Taylor, Alisha, Bethany, Holt, Haze,
Hunter, and Lew, by Steve and Donna Thomas**

Joys and Concerns:
Del Denny, Jim Carli, Rosalie Laughlin, Jennifer Hands, Henry Ricardo Smith (Esther Adkins Smith's husband), Steve and Donna Ashley

Becky Lounsberry, on the death of her great-granddaughter, Gabriela-Desiree Marie Portillo, on November 27

Continuing Concerns:
Bob Cook, Myrna Crocker, Lois Boyd (Ellie Grover's mother), Sue Hayworth, Maria Hudson, Jan Kichefski, Rocky Mead (Chris Mead's father), Mike Purser (Kathy Sanborn's brother), Sharon Whittington, Acey Worthy

Church Life

New Members – This morning, we welcome the following to our family of faith at 11:00: Harry and Denise Fink, Dennis and Elayne McCoy, James and Rachel Mead, Caren Steele, and Gerhard and Sherry Wolf.

Ride Share Ministry – Requests for rides on Sunday are beginning to come in. We still need drivers. If you are interested in helping this new ministry, please contact Anne Saunders at 704-640-4546.

Church Books Closing – The church books will close on Friday, December 30, at 12:00 noon. Contact Christina Lewis for information about your balance at 704-636-1321.

Our Sermon Podcasts are now on Podbean, Spotify, and iHeart Radio! You can listen on our website, www.fpc-sal.org, or click on a link to take you to each of the new formats or search for *First Presbyterian Church Salisbury NC Sermons*. Remember, you can always watch the full service on our YouTube channel too!

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.

