

* Hymn 442 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

* Confession of Sin
**Living Christ,
we hunger and thirst for so many things.
We hunger and thirst for acceptance,
for love, for hope.
But so often, we fill ourselves with empty food
and drink.
We fill ourselves with material things,
with pride and with self.
Restore our longing for a food that does satisfy.
Meet us at the table, and give us instead your life.**

* 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

Children’s Message & Blessing of the Backpacks

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 6:35-40

Scripture: John 7:37-39

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection
Break Thou the Bread of Life
Arr. Carol Tornquist

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

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Sanctuary Choir,
Gwynne Shoaf, soloist
How Beautiful
Jeff Lippencott

* Hymn 509 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*
vv 1-3

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation to the Lord’s Table
Great Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer
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.
Communion of the People
“The body of Christ, given for you.”
“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

Music during Communion

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 697 *Take My Life*

* Benediction

* Benediction Response 542
God Be With You Till We Meet Again v3

Postlude
Holy Manna
Charles Callahan

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. Christ extends the invitation to the Lord’s Supper and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome, 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. 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.”

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

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of Julie Steele,
by Bob, Andi, and Alex.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Steve Hunter, Brandon Aron, Andy Taylor (Brian Taylor’s father), Paul Scarborough (Doug Glasgow’s friend), Elayne McCoy

The family of Sue Hayworth, who died on July 28.

Lynn Weisler and family, on the death of her mother, Shirley Hodge.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Marilyn Beaver (David Beaver’s mother), Scott Hay, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan’s mother), Andy Rowland (Jared Rowland’s father), Margie Shoaf (Jeff Shoaf’s grandmother), John Smith, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington, Acey Worthy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Bob Cook, Danny Fisher, Grace Steinman, Gayle Brinson, Debbie Kessler, John Grubb, Rachel Mead, Ada Grace Church, Bev Mitchell, Scott Hay, Edward Whitley, Ellen Muire, Warren Fesperman, David Coggin, Meredith Brincefield

Anniversary: Randy and Barrie Kirby, Stephen and Andrea Bullock, Steve and Barbara Safrit

MINISTRY FOCUS – 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.

Grow in Faith: Children's Sunday School is on recess beginning August 11 until September 15.

Grow in Friendship: JOY (Just Older Youth 55+) will enjoy their annual Pizza Night @ the Worthy's on Friday, August 9, at 6:00. 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.

Grow in Faith: The Outlook Sunday School class will begin a 9-week book study discussion on August 11 of *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please secure your own books, or just read along in class are just as welcome. The discussions are sure to be lively and accessible either way. The Outlook class meets in the Confirmation Room.

Care: Dotty Clement's daughters will hold a drop-in reception in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 11, from 12:00 to 2:00, in honor of Dotty's 90th birthday.

Grow in Faith: Volunteers are needed to lead Sunday School classes and assist with our First Kids program. If you feel called to assist in these ministries, please see Amanda Hathcock.

Music: Our next 3rd Friday 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 Friendship: In celebration of our FPC members who are 90+, we would like to invite you to join us for a reception in their honor during Sunday School hour on Sunday, August 18, 9:45-10:45, in Fellowship Hall.

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

Grow in Faith: Save the date! Rally Day will be Sunday, September 18, 9:45-10:45. Plan to join us for fun, fellowship, and information about the upcoming year at First Pres!

CORE

Staff: Dr. Randy Kirby began his sabbatical on Aug. 1 and will return on Nov. 4. Please respect his time away and do not call, text, or email him. If you need to speak with someone, call the church office and ask for Pastor Lara. You can follow Randy on Facebook at [Randy on Sabbatical](#).

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.

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

Blood Drive: The American Red Cross and the Showing Up Team thank you very much for the great support we received at Tuesday's Blood Drive. Our goal was 30 units, up from last time, and we received 35 life-giving units of blood. Mark your calendars now for our next quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive at First Pres! Tuesday, October 15, 2:00-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Aug 4	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:45	Unified Adult Sunday School, K-5 th Grade, Room 206
	11:00	Worship in the Sanctuary
Aug 5	10:00	Staff
	4:00	Grow in Friendship Team
	5:30	Showing Up Team
Aug 7	9:00	Yoga
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
Aug 8	6:30	Life Center Worship Rehearsal
Aug 9	6:00	JOY @ the Worthys' Pizza Dinner
Aug 11	8:30	Contemporary Worship – Lewis Hall
	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	11:00	Traditional Worship – Sanctuary

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First Presbyterian Church
308 W Fisher St Salisbury NC 28144
704-636-1321 www.firstpressalisbury.org

First Presbyterian Church

August 4, 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, organ
Shepherd of Love
Arr. Marylyn Arison

Welcome Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
Come to the waters.
Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,
and let those who trust in me drink.
Out of the believer's heart
shall flow rivers of living water.
Let us praise the Lord.