

WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 6, 2025 Eleven o'clock in the Morning
Website: 1stucc.org Facebook: First United Church of Christ-Salisbury
Office Telephone: 704-633-2723

First UCC's Mission Statement
"To grow in faith, love and fellowship as we serve God and all of our community."

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements
Transition Team Report

Lay Reader
Greg Alcorn

Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: With what shall we come before the Holy One, and bow ourselves before God on high?

ALL: Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Leader: God has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Holy One require of you?

ALL: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

†Hymn: *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

Blue Hymnal No. 529

†Prayer of Confession

Lay Reader and Congregation

Leader: Let us confess our sin against God and each other.

ALL: Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

†Silent Reflections

(a short period of silence is observed for silent reflections)

†Kyrie: *O Tender God Have Mercy*

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us
O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us.
O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us,
For you are for us.

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†Our Assurance of God's Pardon

Rev. Ken Clapp

†The Gloria Patri: *I Come With Joy*

I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

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†Hymn: *America the Beautiful*

Blue Hymnal No. 531

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 34:15-22

Lay Reader

Gospel Lesson: John 13:31-35

Lay Reader

Leader: This is a word of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"The Power of Love and Kindness"

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp

†Statement of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten 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.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Ken Clapp

Leader: May the Spirit of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Ken Clapp

The Lord's Prayer

(debts, debtors)

Prayer Response: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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Invitation

Rev. Larry Bolick

Offertory

†Doxology: *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

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Blessing

Rev. Larry Bolick

†Communion Hymn: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Kahn



1. Let us tal-ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

(first time soft, second time loud)



⁹ Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Communion Prayer

Rev. Larry Bolick

Leader: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Call to Supper

Sung Response: *The Gifts of God*

The gifts of God for the people of God!

Come now, for all is prepared.

The gifts of God for the people of God!

The Gospel is among us!

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Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

Sharing the Elements

All are invited to come forward for communion this morning. There are gluten free crackers or bread offered. Please dispose of your cup before returning to your pew.

Special Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

†Hymn: *Faith of Our Fathers*

Blue Hymnal No. 183

Benediction

Rev. Ken Clapp

Postlude

Assisting in Today's Worship

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Clapp

Rev. Lawrence Bolick

Nathan Bowman, Music Director/Organist

Carolyn Cline, Lay Reader

We welcome Rev. Dr. Ken Clapp, retired Senior Vice-President and Campus Minister of Catawba College who is a member of First Church since 1989, and preaching today. Also, Rev. Larry Bolick, who is officiating over Holy Communion, and a member since 2018. They are sharing Pastoral Care for the Congregation for an interim period, visiting the hospitalized, infirmed, homebound and others who may request a visit. They both serve on the Transition Committee.



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In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Edith Bolick, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), Emily Faust, Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Doris Miller, Dan Morgan, Patsy Paxton, Paul Paxton, Cathy Robbins, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Don Whitfield, Janette Yost. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, let the office know.***

Announcements

Tuesday, July 8

10:30 a.m..... Meals on Wheels Deliveries

Thursday, July 10

6:00 p.m..... Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, July 13

11:00 a.m..... Worship with Rev. Anne Tambling

We invite you to share any suggestions you may have with Church Council or Pastor/Parish Relations.

Council Members:

Greg Alcorn
Don Whitfield
Phyllis Little
Shirley McNeil
Ken Clapp
Carolyn Cline
Lynn Bernhardt

Pastoral Staff Relations:

Dan Mikkelsen
Greg Alcorn
Ken Clapp