— The Worship *of* Almighty God —

denotes the People stand, in body or in spirit, as able.
The People's responses are printed in **bold.**

Thank you for silencing your devices.

— Gathering —

Gathering Music — Joshua Starnes, *Director of Music Ministry*

Silent Prayer *of* Preparation *for* Worship

Almighty and Everlasting God, who by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that Your servant, Barbara, being raised with Him, may know the strength of His Presence, and rejoice in His eternal glory. Grant this we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, world without end. *Amen.*

Welcome — The Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti, *Senior Pastor*

Dying, Christ destroyed our death.
Rising, Christ restored our life.
Christ will come again in glory.
As in baptism Barbara put on Christ,
so in Christ may Barbara be clothed with glory.
Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children.
What we shall be has not yet been revealed;
but we know that when Christ appears,
we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
Those who have this hope purify themselves
as Christ is pure.

The Word *of* Grace — *from John 11.25-26; 14.19 & Revelation 1.18; 22.13*

Jesus said, "I AM the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. I AM the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death. Because I live, you shall live also."

Greeting

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Barbara. We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss. May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.

✟ Processional Hymn: No. 110 *(sung by all)* — Ein' Feste Burg
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

✟ Opening Prayers

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Together, let us pray:
All:
O God, who gave us birth,
You are ever more ready to hear
than we are to pray.
You know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.
Give to us now Your grace,
that as we shrink before the mystery of death,
we may see the light of eternity.
Speak to us once more
Your solemn message of life and of death.
Help us to live as those who are prepared to die.
And when our days here are accomplished,
enable us to die as those who go forth to live,
so that whether living or dying, our life may be in You,
and that nothing in life or in death will be able to
separate us from Your great love in Christ Jesus our
Lord. *Amen.*

Pastor: Eternal God,
All:
we praise You for the great company of all those
who have finished their course in faith
and now rest from their labor.
We praise You for those dear to us
whom we name in our hearts before You.
Especially we praise You for Barbara,
whom You have graciously received into Your Presence.
To all of these, grant Your peace.
Let perpetual light shine upon them;
and help us so to believe where we have not seen,
that Your Presence may lead us through our years,
and bring us at last with them
into the joy of Your home
not made with hands but eternal in the heavens;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Eulogy *and* Family Remembrances

— Service *of* God's Word —

Old Testament Lesson — Isaiah 40.28-31

Gradual *(responsorially, by half-verse)* — Psalm 23: *Dominus regit me*
A Psalm of David.

Pastor: [1] The Lord is my shepherd;
People: **I shall not want.**

Pastor: [2] He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
People: **He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Pastor: [3] He restoreth my soul:
People: **He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.**

Pastor: [4] Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
People: **for Thou art with me;**
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Pastor: [5] Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
People: **Thou anointest my head with oil;**
my cup runneth over.

Pastor: [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
People: **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

✟ Tract Verse: No. 328 *(sung by all – two times)* — Wolfe
Surely the Presence of the Lord

✟ Gospel Lesson — John 14.1-4, 18-19, 25-27
...This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

✟ Hymn *of* Response: No. 347 *(sung by all)* — Spirit Song
Spirit Song

✟ Affirmation *of* our Faith *(in unison)* — *The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)*

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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy, catholic Church,**
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

*[*living; **universal]*

— Commendation —

Prayers *of* Commendation *of* Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)* — *from Matthew 6.9b-13*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

[continued overleaf...]

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
[For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. *Amen.*]

—Sending Forth—

✠ Recessional Hymn: No. 89 *(sung by all)* — Hymn to Joy
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

✠ Benediction *and* Departure *into* the Mission Field
[You are invited to bow your head and extend your hands for the blessing.]

Following the service, you are invited to join us in the Carter Lobby for a reception.
Make the Lord grant us true and abiding fellowship with one another.

What We Believe

At the heart of the Christian faith is God's victory over death. Through the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the gift of eternal life. As disciples of Jesus, we are convinced that we too share in His victory over hell and the grave. We affirm that at death, the Christian believer lives in the presence of God. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. So, death is not the end; but rather, this is the new beginning of a fuller existence that will be completed in the culmination of Christ's return in glory and the resurrection of the body. This hope is based, not on our own works or merit, but solely upon God's grace and faith in Christ alone. The large white candle – the Paschal candle (from the Latin *"pascha"* and Hebrew *"pesach"* meaning "Passover") – is lit symbolizing Christ, the Passover Lamb of God, and His victory over death, for Barbara's sake, and for all of us who gather today.

The All Saints' Banner features a peacock, an ancient symbol of the resurrection. As the feathers are shed, they regrow more glorious than before! The peacock is depicted rising above earthly sorrows (purple) to joy (pink), similar to a mythical phoenix rising from the ashes. The rays of light at the top of the banner represent God's grace and love extending down to welcome the faithful.

Those in need of grief counseling may contact Garry Cook, our Counseling Center Pastoral Counselor, by phone at: **704.375.5354, x. 405**, or via email at: **gcook@scgnc.org**. For more information, please visit: **www.fumcsalisbury.org/counseling-center.**

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

—In Memoriam—

Barbara Anne Carter Safley, 91, died Wednesday, March 9, 2021, at Novant Health Rowan Regional Medical Center.

The fourth of seven children, Barbara was born on March 4, 1931, to the late Mary Elizabeth Cornwell and Clyde Marvin Carter of Lincolnton. After graduation from Lincolnton High School, Barbara moved to Salisbury where she continued her education in radiology technology. It was when she gathered with her nurse friends at a Salisbury drug store soda fountain that a young man named Jack Plummer Safley sent her a note asking: "Do you think you could ever care for me?"

Care she did. The two were married on March 10, 1957, and celebrated 53 years of matrimony before his death in 2010.

Barbara was a faithful and active member of First United Methodist Church of Salisbury for her entire adult life. She served her church and the community with a quiet loyalty, most comfortable when the attention was on others. Sharp to the end, Barbara always enjoyed playing bridge, reading a good book, solving crossword puzzles, and watching both classic films and professional tennis. While living at Trinity Oaks, she especially enjoyed the many opportunities to attend lectures, learn new skills such as painting, playing shuffleboard, and competing in the communities' Olympic style games.

What brought the most joy to Barbara's life was family. Left to carry on the legacy of her love are her daughter Anne Elizabeth Safley Bills and husband, Don Andrew Bills, of High Point; grandchildren: Andrew Carter Bills and wife, Morgan Hunt Bills, of Asheboro; Elizabeth Bills Weaver and husband, Andrew Wesley Weaver, of High Point; Mary Cullen Bills Dixon and husband, Phillip Ray Dixon III, of High Point; and great grandchildren Mary Rush Catherine Bills and Hunt Carter Bills of Asheboro; and Andrew Bills Weaver of High Point.

Memorials may be directed to: First United Methodist Church, 217 S. Church St., Salisbury, NC, 28144, or to Rowan Helping Ministries, 226 N. Long St., Salisbury, NC, 28144.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Trinity Oaks for caring for Barbara as a beloved family member these past 11 years, especially during the challenges of the pandemic. As "Babs" would always say, "Thank you so *very* much."

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury, North Carolina
217 South Church Street, Salisbury, NC 28144-4972
704.636.3121 | fumcsalisbury.org | @fumcsalisbury

Our Mission:
To make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God.

A Service *of* Worship *in* Witness *to* the Resurrection

Barbara Anne Carter Safley

March 04, 1931 — March 09, 2022

✠

Sunday, March 13, *Anno Domini* 2022
3:00 p.m. | The Sanctuary

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury, North Carolina