

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

April 6, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Worship will be live streamed on
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio,
You Tube: [www.youtube / FPCSALEM](http://www.youtube.com/FPCSALEM); and
our website, www.fpcsaalem.org.

"We are centered in Christ and powered by love."

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River
Jesus Loves Me

Dale Wood
Fred Bock

*Let us silently turn our hearts, minds, and
bodies to the worship of God as the
light of Christ is brought forward.*

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Jan Sanborn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Attendance Pad.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of all power and might is with us always.

Here we gather to worship and adore our Lord!

In God's holy presence, we ask for restoration of our hearts
and minds.

**We ask to be filled with a peace that will fill us and go with us
wherever we go.**

Fill our mouths with laughter and our hearts with joy, Holy
King;

So we may remember and live in your promises always!

Amen!

*HYMN 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We come to confession like a wooden boat. We are weathered
by storms of our own making; we are splintered and cracked,
taking on water. God meets us in our confession as an expert
carpenter: sanding, repairing, repainting, again and again, until

we are restored. Trusting in God's great love for us, let us join in our confession together, let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Holy and Good Father, we know the ways in which we have strayed from your way. The ways in which we have stubbornly held to our desires instead of seeking the good of others and what you long for. We remember the ways in which we have held tight to the fears of our past instead of embracing your promises for the future. Teach us now to embrace the new thing that you continue to do. Help us to see the newness of your kingdom instead of being bogged down by the sameness of our world. Help us to be your people, building the new thing with you, today and always. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Lord has done great things for us.

Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we are renewed, and we are made whole.

Beloved children of God, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** (*Unison; Hymn 579*)

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.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Holy God, just as you spoke at the dawn of creation, continue to speak to us now as we prepare to encounter your Word. Be

**with us in our listening, in our speaking, in our understanding,
and in our responding. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir

Lonesome Valley

Jay Althouse

Beckenhorst Press, Inc., CCL#2595933

Jesus walked this lonesome valley
He had to walk it by Himself
Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him,
He had to walk it by Himself.

When we walk this lonesome valley,
We won't walk it by ourselves, by ourselves.
No, Jesus is there; He'll walk beside us.
We won't walk it by ourselves.

In the valley I walk in a pasture so green
with a river so deep and so wide.
A valley more beautiful than I have ever seen.
I walk with the Lord as my guide.

When you walk your lonesome valley,
You won't walk it by yourself.
No, Jesus is there; He'll walk beside you.
You won't walk it by yourself

THE SECOND READING

John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

This is the Gospel of the LORD!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

"Getting Ready for God"

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 87

The Glory of These Forty Days

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We believe in God who loved us before we were born,
who has high hopes for us,
and who provides for all our needs.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ
in whom we know God most clearly**

**and see the person God means us to be.
We believe in the Holy Presence
and dare to claim the fullness of joy,
the peace that passes all understanding,
and the fellowship of all those who trust in God.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing

Ryan Gillis

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William Bradbury

*RESPONSE HYMN 592 (*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

God of all gifts, we are grateful for the many ways you continue to provide for us. As we offer a portion of these gifts today, we ask that you might receive them and transform them. Allow these gifts to become acts of restoration and hope, here in this community and beyond. So that all of your children might live into the abundance and the joy that you offer us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION / LORD'S PRAYER (*sins*)

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; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (*Hymn 2162, Sing the Faith, Grace Alone*)

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

*Please remain standing as the Light of Christ
is carried into the world.*

POSTLUDE

This Is My Father's World

Fred Bock

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

1. In what ways does Mary's extravagance speak to you or make you uneasy?
2. What do we carry with us from serving God and seeing God's salvation?
3. How are we called to act after receiving God's blessings?

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Tegan Jackson

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins and Flowers have been given by Phyllis Denton in honor of Fred's Birthday.

Open Dates for Bulletins – May 11, 18, June 8, 15, 22.

Chancel Flowers have been given in honor of George Bell's 90th Birthday; anonymously to the Glory of God in celebration of the

Birthday of Lois Ann Dunn; and by Margaret Winch for the gift of Peterson Winch and Claire Janavitz.

Café Justo Organic Coffee is what we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour. Cost is \$12 for a 1-pound bag of Regular, Decaf, or Whole Bean Coffee. Cooperative members own the entire business from the growing through the roasting, and the coffee is famous for its smooth taste and low acidity. It is Organic certified and has a Fair Trade plus certification. You can purchase in Fellowship Hall the first Sunday of the month, or in the Church Office during the week. *Note – The date on the bag is when it was packed, not an expiration date.*

Chime Project – An electronic system will be installed in our bell tower that not only chimes the time, but also plays over 3000 spiritual songs and is controlled remotely. The estimated remaining cost after a member donation is approximately \$3,100. Donations will be received through May 30, 2025 to fully fund the project. A chart showing donations is in Fellowship Hall.

Interested in Overseeing Garage Sale????

Please contact Bill Penfold, 330-831-2673 or exmatch@neo.rr.com.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – For more than 75 years, OGHS has partnered with others to take action to share God's love. Through these three life-saving programs, we are there to advance the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability. Please give what you can. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Offering envelopes are in Sanctuary pews. *To date, we have received \$1,535.*

Environmental Team Meeting Today following Worship

90th Birthday Celebration for George Bell Today

An Open House will be held this afternoon from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Aeonian Brewing Company, 120 West Chestnut Street in Alliance by George's niece, Abby Schroeder.

Preschool Easter Egg Hunt – Our Preschool is having an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. Last year many of you filled plastic eggs for their hunt and the children had so much fun. If you would like to fill some plastic eggs this year, please leave them on the table outside of the preschool door on Palm Sunday. Thank you so much!

Paper Shredding – The Salem Public Library Community Paper Shred will take place on Saturday, April 19, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the library parking lot.

Environmental Team Book Study – The Environmental Team is organizing a book study that we hope many of you will join. The book, “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson, has been chosen for our study. It is described as a classic book that helped to launch the Environmental Movement. If you are interested in joining us or you have friends or other family members who would like to participate, please call the office and let Phyllis know by April 8. She will help us with the ordering of the books. You should receive your book some time that week. Our first meeting to discuss the beginning of the book will be on Earth Sunday, April 27th following worship. If the weather is good, we are hoping to meet outside in the gazabo and enjoy a picnic lunch together. A second gathering to discuss the rest of the book will be determined that day. We hope you will consider being a part of this study.

Nature Walk – All you bug enthusiasts, mark your calendars! The Environmental Team is planning an outing to the Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center at the Mount Union College on May 10 from 1:00 to 2:00. Participants will go out into the center with nets and collecting jars to gather up any little critters you might find. We will then gather back together and learn about our findings. More information will be announced closer to the date.

Limited Deacon Scholarship Funds are available for students from our church who are enrolled in College or University and who have not previously received Deacon assistance. Requests should be sent to the Church Office stating the name of the

college or university attending, and course of study, if known, by June 30.

Troop 3 is seeking adult leaders and young persons ages 11-18. Qualifications are adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, a love of adventure, learning, and teamwork. Perks are a world-class team, adventure, and learning amazing things. For more information, see Mark Smith or Frank Lewis.

Vision Statement

*To glorify God and share the Spirit and love of Christ
with our community and the world.*

Sunday, April 6

Environmental Team following Worship (Library)

6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

Monday, April 7

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 Troop 3 (Basement) / Troop 2003G (209)

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Tuesday, April 8

8:30 am Investment Committee *via Zoom*

Wednesday, April 9

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Lent Study (Library)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (Sanctuary)

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

7:00 Finance and Administration Committee *via Zoom*

Thursday, April 10

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (Library)

7:00 Regular Session Meeting (Library/Hybrid)

Saturday, April 12

9:00-2:00 Music Study Club Auditions (Chapel)

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884

pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org

Clerk of Session..... Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com

Director of Music..... John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Organist Nancy McNeal

Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, cheracd@aol.com

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsaalem.org

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Custodian..... Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net