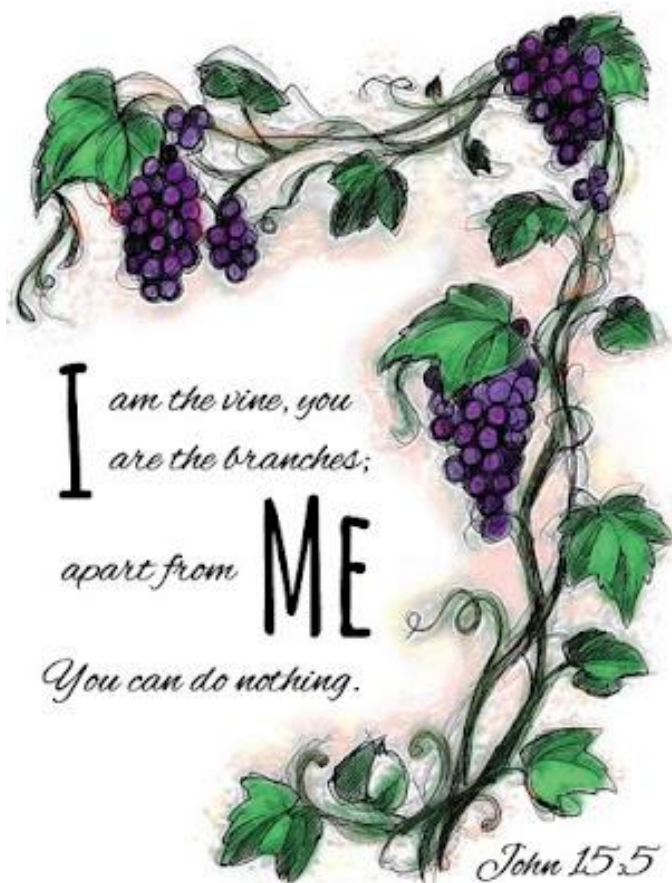


First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

Prelude in Classic Style (Organ) Gordon Young
"Fanfare" (Brass and Timpani) G.F. Handel, arr. Chuck Seipp

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

PRELUDE

"Air" (Brass) G.F. Handel, arr. Chuck Seipp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God...
God is love,
and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them." (1 John 4:7, 16b)
Let us worship God together."

*HYMN 464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Almighty God, Whose name is Agapé (Self-giving Love), You reveal Your sovereign power by giving creation space in which to live. Christ the Son emptied Himself of divine privilege to dwell with us. He became sin who knew no sin. We confess that we fail even to understand this mystery of love. We act as the world teaches us: that power is for taking whatever we want, enjoying whatever we like, and trampling whatever and

whoever gets in our way. Lord, have mercy on us; Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins for the sake of Your love for us. Remake our souls in the image of the eternal Son, Who gave His life for us, Whom You raised from the dead, and Who now reigns in power with You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We pray in His name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned...”
(John 3:16-18a)

Believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***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 *(from Celtic Invocations**)*

Light of Life, Author of Truth, Word made flesh to live among us, You bring hope to conquer despair, courage to overcome fear, love that defeats sin and death. Grant us faith to respond with joy to You by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 118:19-25

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that

you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Allegro Vivace"

Brass and Timpani

G.F. Handel/arr. Chuck Seipp

THE SECOND READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop,

and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Choir, Piano, Brass, and Timpani

Celebrate the Day

Pepper Choplin

Beckenhorst Press, Inc., CCL#2595933

Celebrate the day, celebrate the life.
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.
Celebrate the day, celebrate the life,
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.

Remember all the blessings, the blessings of the day.
Be thankful for the very gift of breath and life.
Remember all the goodness, and mercies of the Lord
and fill the morning with the sounds of praise and joy!

Celebrate the day, celebrate the life.
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.
Celebrate the day, celebrate the life,
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.

We'll bless your name forever, for great are You, Lord.
And every generation will declare Your mighty works.
We sing of Your great goodness, Your holy righteousness
Your glory of Your Kingdom reigns forever, forevermore.
We come to celebrate the day, celebrate the life.
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.
Celebrate the day, celebrate the life.
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.
Celebrate the joy of our life in Christ.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

"A Place for Those Who Don't Belong There"

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 423

Jesus Shall Reign

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison; The Apostles' Creed*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living
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.**

MINUTES FOR MISSION

*Large Item Recycling
Pentecost Offering*

*Environmental Team
Mission I and S Committee*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Fred Bock

Loose Cash Offering will go to the Board of Deacons today.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

You have given us the Risen Christ, and through Him, the Holy Spirit. We offer ourselves to You in thanksgiving. May we and what we present show Your love and glorify Your name. Amen.

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*All who seek the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ
are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *including* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION /
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sins*)

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...

You gave us a vision of your holy kingdom
that we might hunger after righteousness
and thirst for justice,
and long for the day when peace will triumph
over the pride and greed of nations.

Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with the servants around heaven's throne
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The bread and the cup will be received by coming forward and given a piece of bread, taking the cup, and returning the cup to a tray. If you cannot come forward, you will be served in the pew.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Unison*)

Gracious God: we have recognized our living Lord in the breaking of bread. Help us to see him and serve him in all whose lives are broken, and to make of our own lives a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 439

In Christ There Is No East or West

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*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

"Hornpipe II" (Brass and Timpani) G.F. Handel, arr. Chuck Seipp

*Please stand if you are able.

Question for thought:

How do you show God's love?

Musicians: *Terry Gale* (Trumpet), *Andy Schuller* (Trumpet), *Rob Cole* (Horn), *Jonathan Willis* (Trombone), *Benjamin Ammon* (Tuba), *Robert Barnett* (Percussion)

*Today's appearance is underwritten
by the many donors to our Music Fund.*

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Rev. Trina Lewis

Acolyte/Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously in appreciation of the Deacons. *Bulletin donors are needed for June 9, 16, July 7, 28, August 4, 11, and 18. Cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.*

Flowers have been given by Alice Jackson in honor of Megan Wilson's birthday; and anonymously in appreciation of the previous PNC and present PSC for their diligent and prayerful search for the pastor God has chosen for us.

Soup to Go (Vegetable Beef) is in the Kitchen for \$5 a quart.

Geraniums for Pentecost – Plants are \$5 for a 4" pot. Order today in Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office this week, 330-337-9555, or e-mail phyllis@fpcsaalem.org. Plants not taken by donors will be planted on church grounds.

The Environmental Team is sponsoring a raffle for 4 Environmentally Friendly Shopping bags made by Sue Lewis. The money raised will be used to help pay expenses for the team's proposed Pollinator Garden. Tickets will be sold today and next Sunday for \$1 a ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. The winning tickets will be announced at 10:15 on May 5 during coffee hour.

Church Members' Sale today in Fellowship Hall before and after church until 12:30 p.m.

Join us next Sunday, May 5, as we celebrate Earth Sunday. Dan Schomer will be preaching, and we will enjoy special by the Carillon Ringers and the Presbyterian preschoolers. You will go home with flower seeds to plant in your gardens. And remember to wear green or your brightest colors as we celebrate God's amazing world.

Sunday, April 28

Church Members' Sale till 12:30 (FH) – *before/after church*

6:00 Pack 3 Blue and Gold Banquet (FH)

Monday, April 29

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

6:30 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209)

Wednesday, May 1

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

12:00 Daytimers (FH)

6:00 Moderators Meeting *via Zoom*

6:15 Carillon Ringers (last till fall)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, May 2

6:00 Christian Education (L) / **Mission I and S** (P)

7:00 Devotions in the Sanctuary

7:15 Property (L) / **Worship** (P)

Vision Statement

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

Temporary Pastoral Leadership Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, 304-266-8154
Rev. Trina Lewis, 304-266-8214
Temporary Head of Staff & Administrator.... Alice Jackson, 330-257-8798
Clerk of Session Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com
Director of Music John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com
Organist..... Nancy McNeal
Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com
Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry
Administrative Secretary..... Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org
Financial Assistant..... Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org
Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net