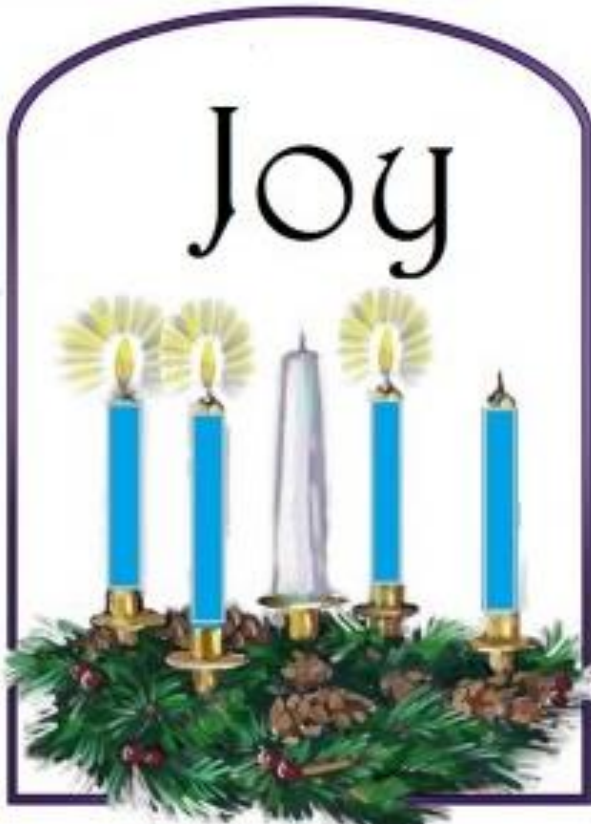


First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

December 15, 2024

10:30 a.m.

## The Third Sunday of Advent



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](http://www.fpcsaalem.org).

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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*Love Came Down at Christmas (an Irish Air)*      Raymond Haan  
*Pie Jesu (Brass and Organ)*      Andrew Lloyd Webber  
arranged by Hans Zellner

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

### PRELUDE

*How Far Is It to Bethlehem*      Paul Manz

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### HYMN – *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Prepare the Way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

### THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

*Ray and Jan Cox*

### HYMN – *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Comfort, comfort you my people,  
Tell of peace, thus says our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Bowed beneath oppression's load.  
Speak you to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
And their warfare now is over.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Here, in this place,  
we discover the great things God has done.

**In story and song, in silence and sacrament,  
we are reminded that God's relationship with us  
lasts forever.**

Here, with these people,  
we find our true home,  
**where we can run home laughing,  
after being lost for so long.**

Here, during this holy season,  
we hear those promises made so long ago.  
**Of the One who repairs all our mistakes,  
of the One who reshapes our brokenness.**

\*HYMN 22

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We come before God in this season of light, but we know of the brokenness and darkness that taints our world. Let us confess this brokenness and our actions that contribute to it, confident in God's grace and forgiveness.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**God of tenderness and love,  
breathe your grace into our lives.  
Forgive our wandering ways,  
and guide us along your paths of peace.  
When we lose our way,  
and forget the reason and purpose of this season,  
carry us back to you.  
Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope,  
that we might truly proclaim:  
"Here is our God!"  
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Comfort, O comfort my people," says our God.

God's grace abounds and his mercies are new every morning.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Hallelujah! In the name of 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*The First Presbyterian Preschool*

*Away in a Manger*

*Bells are Ringing*

*Angel Band*

## THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

### *Love is Born*

A Chamber Cantata

*by Lloyd Larson*

Narrator

Rev. Annie Parker

### *I. Hope of the World*

*A Carillon of Hope – Overture*

*Come, Hope of Every Longing Heart*

*Mike Newman, Soloist*

Hope of the world, help of the helpless;  
Lord, quickly come to set us free.

Messiah King, come and redeem us,  
hope of the world for all to see.

Hope of the world, help of the helpless;  
Lord, quickly come to set us free.  
Messiah King, come and redeem us,  
hope of the world for all to see.

Emmanuel, come dwell among us.  
Come now and reign in majesty.  
King of all kings and Lord of glory,  
O hear our prayer, our humble plea.  
Hope of the world for you and me!

Emmanuel, come dwell among us.  
Come now and reign in majesty.  
King of all kings and Lord of glory,  
O hear our prayer, our humble plea.  
Hope of the world for you and me!

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation,  
hope of every longing heart, every heart.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation,  
hope of every longing heart.  
Come, hope of every longing heart.

## *II. Prince of Peace*

*Proclaim God's Peace*

“Comfort, comfort, O my people,  
speak of peace,” now says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim  
of the peace that waits for them.”

Hear the voice of one who’s crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to full repentance  
for the kingdom now is here!

“Comfort, comfort, O my people,  
speak of peace,” now says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim  
of the peace that waits for them.”

Make straight the road that long was crooked,  
make the rougher places plain.  
Let your heart be true and humble  
as befits God’s holy reign.

“Comfort, comfort, O my people,  
speak of peace,” now says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim  
of the peace, proclaim God’s peace,  
proclaim of the peace that waits for them.  
Proclaim God’s peace!”

## *Peace Will Come*

Peace will come to those who wait on the Lord.  
Peace will come to those who wait on the Lord.  
Peace will come, our King will come,  
peace will come to those who wait on the Lord.

Peace will come to those who trust in the Lord.  
Peace will come to those who trust in the Lord, the Lord.  
Peace will come, our King will come,  
peace will come to those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord is good to those who wait,  
for His mercies never cease.  
Put your trust in Him, the promised King.  
He is coming, the Prince of peace, our Prince of peace.  
Peace will come to those who wait on the Lord.  
Peace will come, our King will come,  
peace will come to those who trust in the Lord.

O come, Desire of nations,  
bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Peace will come, our King will come,  
our King will come to those who wait,  
peace will come to those who wait on the Lord.

### *III. How Great Our Joy!*

#### *Angels are Singing, Heaven is Ringing*

Angels are singing, heaven is ringing,  
"Glory in the highest!"  
Angels are winging, noels they're bringing,  
"Glory in the highest!"

Born in a manger, He is the Savior!  
To Bethlehem, now go, adore Him.  
He has come to save us. Praise the name of Jesus!  
The Lord is born tonight!

Angels are singing, heaven is ringing,  
“Glory in the highest!”  
Angels are winging, noels they’re bringing,  
“Glory in the highest!”

Born in a manger, He is the Savior!  
To Bethlehem, now go, adore Him.  
He has come to save us. Praise the name of Jesus!  
The Lord is born tonight!

Gloria, sing gloria. Gloria, sing gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, sing gloria. Gloria, sing gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King, the King.  
Christ is born tonight!

*How Great Our Joy!*

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
in Bethlehem a Child today.



How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

How great, how great is our joy!  
How great is our joy!  
Sing praise to the Lord on high!  
How great, how great is our joy!  
How great is our joy!  
Sing praise to the Lord!  
How great our joy!

There shall the Child lie in a stall,  
this Child who shall redeem us all.  
How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

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.**

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Winds Through the Olive Trees*

*Dale Wood*

*Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are in the Pew Racks.*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,  
**and we give with joy.**  
Joy for all you have given us;

**Joy because of your sacred promises.**

Receive these generous offerings,

**and use them to spread your joy in our world.**

**Amen.**

*IV. Love Is Born*

*Love is Born Tonight*

Love is born tonight in a manger.

Love is born in Bethlehem town.

Love is born, Christ is born.

Love is born this holy night.

Born a child and yet the Messiah!

Mary sings her lullaby.

Christ is born, love's purest light,

born on this holy night.

Love is born tonight in a manger.

Born in Bethlehem town.

Love is born, Christ is born,

born this holy night.

Bring your gift and kneel at the manger.

Christ is born in Bethlehem town.

God has come to earth.

What a glorious birth!

Come, behold the King of love, the King of love!

Love is born tonight in a manger.

Love is born in Bethlehem town.

Love is born, love is born,

Christ is born, Christ is born.

Love is born this night, Christ is born this night,

Love is born this holy night.

*The Wonder of God's Love*

Angels are singing, heaven is ringing, "Glory in the highest!"  
Angels are winging, noels they're bringing,  
"Glory in the highest!"  
Born in a manger, He is the Savior!  
To Bethlehem, now go, adore Him  
He has come to save us.  
Praise the name of Jesus!  
The Lord is born tonight!

Angels are singing, heaven is ringing, "Glory in the highest!"  
Angels are winging, noels they're bringing,  
"Glory in the highest!"  
Born in a manger, He is the Savior!  
To Bethlehem, now go, adore Him  
He has come to save us.  
Praise the name of Jesus!  
The Lord is born tonight!

Love is born tonight in a manger.  
Love is born in Bethlehem town.  
Love is born, Christ is born.  
Love is born this holy night.

Love is born tonight in a manger.  
Love is born in Bethlehem town.  
Love is born, love is born,  
Christ is born, Christ is born,  
Love is born this holy night.

*(Congregation joins Choir)*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,**

and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, wonders of His love.  
Celebrate the wonder of God's love!

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*HYMN 51

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; "Grant us peace."*)

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

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

POSTLUDE

*Deck the Halls (Brass)*

*Awake, Awake, For Night Is Flying*

*David Cherwein*

\*Please stand if you are able.

*Today's appearance of guest musicians and vocalists is  
underwritten by the many donors to our Music Fund.*

**Instrumentalists:**

Lisa Price (Flute), Rebecca Bickel (Oboe), Al Colella (Clarinet), Rob Cole (Horn), Terry Gale (Trumpet), John Veneskey (Trumpet), Jonathan Willis (Trombone), Chris Houser (Bass Trombone),

Benjamin Ammon (Tuba), Lauren Zetts (Tuba), Jeffrey DiCesare (Electric Bass), Jan S. Cox, (Keyboard), Robert Barnett (Percussion)

**Guest Vocalists:**

Benjamin Ammon, Brad Bickel, Georgeann Colella, Colleen McNally Harris, Kirk Hofmeister, Julie Rine Holderbaum, Debra Massey Imler, Christine Langer, Valerie Davis Weingart, Lauren Zetts

**Head Ushers:** Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

**Liturgist:** Lynn Zocolo

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins** have been given by Fred and Phyllis Denton in honor of our Wedding Anniversary on December 20.

**Flowers** have been given anonymously.

**A Warm Welcome** this morning to the preschoolers of our Presbyterian Preschool and their families. Our church members always enjoy having them with us. We look forward to hearing the songs they will be singing for us.

**The Congregational Care Committee has a special gift for all of you this morning – a beautiful Danish heart.** Please take one with you at the end of the service today, enjoy the sweet candy treat inside, then find a special place to display it as a reminder of Jesus, God's gift of love for us.

**A Thank You Reception for Alice Jackson** will be held today in Fellowship Hall following Worship. Light refreshments will be served. A basket will be available to share your personal note of gratitude with her. Please plan to be with us!

**2025 Offering Envelopes are available** today in Fellowship Hall. If you do not have envelopes, but would like a box, please call the Church Office.

**Blessings Jars benefit Presbyterian Hurricane Relief**

Please take a jar home with you (at Sanctuary entrances) and drop your pocket change in the jar to show gratitude for your many blessings. Return the jars to church next Sunday, December 22 or on Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Eve Service – Tuesday, December 24**

7:30 p.m. / The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper / Candle-lighting

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, December 15

**Thank You Reception for Alice Jackson following Worship (FH)**

**Special Session Meeting with Confirmands following Reception (L)**

6:00 Cub Scouts (B)

Monday, December 16

10:00-11:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

4:30-7:00 Piano in Use (S)

6:30 Troops 3 and 2003G (B / 209)

Wednesday, December 18

8:00-2:00 Church Office Hours

10:00-11:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

6:30-8:30 Piano in Use (C)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, December 19

**7:00 Regular Session Meeting** (Library and Hybrid)

Sunday, December 22

9:00 Adult Church School Class (Library) / Confirmation (209)

10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)

10:30 Service of Worship

Reception for Confirmands following Worship (FH)

6:00 Cub Scouts (B)

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

Office Hours: Mon. – Weds., 9:30 am-4 pm; Thurs., 9:30 am-12:30 pm

[pastorannie@fpcsalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsalem.org)

Clerk of Session ..... Barbara Loudon, [bloudon@neo.rr.com](mailto:bloudon@neo.rr.com)

Director of Music ..... John Krauss, [wjohnkrauss@gmail.com](mailto:wjohnkrauss@gmail.com)

Organist.....Nancy McNeal

Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs .... Cheryl McDevitt, [chermcd@aol.com](mailto:chermcd@aol.com)

Audio/Video ..... Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

Administrative Secretary..... Phyllis Garlock, [phyllis@fpcsalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsalem.org)

Financial Assistant.....Mary Banar, [office@fpcsalem.org](mailto:office@fpcsalem.org)

Custodian ..... Ed Tonkinson, [mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net)