

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

November 27, 2022

10:30 a.m.

The First 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.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE	<i>Nancy McNeal, Organist / Brass and Timpani</i>
<i>How Majestic Is Your Name</i>	<i>John Carter</i>
<i>Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying</i>	<i>Robert Hobby</i>
<i>(hymntune: Wachet Auf)</i>	
<i>Trumpet Tune from Suite (Brass/Timpani)</i>	<i>Henry Purcell</i>
<i>March from Suite (Brass/Timpani)</i>	<i>Henry Purcell</i>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 122:1-2, 8*

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,

'Peace be within you.'

Let us worship God.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Tricia Jackson and Family

*HYMN 13 *Prepare the Way*

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God of justice and peace, You command the nations to "Cease fighting!" and know that You are God. We confess that we have not healed the divisions that fracture the human community. Anger fosters fear, which leads to violence; hate begets hate—from Cain against Abel to today. We turn against the "Other" and, in so doing, we turn against You. We have neither expected nor hope for Your coming Kingdom. Lord, forgive us. Turn us away from the ways of destruction and

death. Help us to share in the prayer of St. Francis, “Make me an instrument of your peace.” That is, mold us into the image of Christ. We pray in the name of him who gave his life for our salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.” (*Psalms 130:7, 8*).

Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

***THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Eternal God, reveal Yourself to be beyond time and space. You create the future, just as You keep that which is holy in our past. Grant us wisdom by the Holy Spirit to take into ourselves the word You have for us. Lift us above ourselves to the summit of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***PRAYER RESPONSE (*Choir; then Choir and Congregation*)**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD

from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Intrada from Suite

Brass and Timpani

Henry Purcell

THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Hymn of Thanksgiving

The Haviland Choir, Organ, Brass, Timpani

Douglas E. Wagner

Lorenz Co., CCL#2595933

We send our thanksgiving for all that we find
of beauty on earth, in the sea or the sky;
For all that reveals, if the soul be not blind,
our world as it glows in the infinite mind.

The hope of our hearts and the work of God's hands,
have changed like the patterns of water on sand.
But we oft have sung our delight as we scanned
the splendor of God on the sea and the land.

The rose in the hedge and the plum on the tree
remember their maker who caused them to be:
They send up the joy of their color as we
this joy of our singing to God gratefully,
this joy of our singing, with praise and thanksgiving
to God gratefully. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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

SERMON

"Climbing the Highest Mountain"
Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBER

Elder:

On behalf of the session, I present Mr. Tom Shafer, who has been received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Minister:

You come to us as a member of the one holy catholic church,
into which you were baptized,
and by which you have been nurtured.
We are one with each other,
sisters and brothers in the family of God.
We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.

Listen to these words of scripture from the Apostle Paul.

“There is one body and one Spirit, *Ephesians 4:4-6*
just as you were called
to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.”

Tom, with this in mind, please reaffirm your faith by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Elder:

As members of the household of God, God has called us to serve Christ in the world. Let us welcome Tom to this ministry with us.

*Congregation: *(Please stand if you are able)*
**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
to share with us in the ministry of Christ,
for we are all one in him.**

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)*

**Jesus, the long-expected Savior,
came into the world as a child:
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice
and peace on earth.**

(from "A Declaration of Faith," 1977)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Andante Pastorale

A. Corelli

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are at Sanctuary entrances.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Unison)*

**Gracious God, we can only bring to You a portion of what You
have provided for us. We present these offerings with
thanksgiving and dedicate them to Your mission in Jesus Christ.
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 308

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem

*POSTLUDE

Organ/Brass/Timpani

Now Thank We All Our God from Cantata 79

J.S. Bach

*Please stand if you are able.

Instrumentalists: Susan Sexton, John Veneskey – Trumpet;
James Scanga – Horn; Jonathan Willis – Trombone;
Benjamin Ammon – Tuba; Robert Barnett – Timpani

Today's Appearance of the Instrumentalists is underwritten by the many donors to our Music Fund.

Liturgist: Mark Smith

Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandra Quinn, Archie Crum

Bulletins: Given by Wanda and Steve Navoyosky

Flowers: Given by Rose Marie Crookston in memory of her mother, Matilda 'Tillie' Crawford; and by Margaret Winch in honor of Elizabeth's birthday.

Blessings Jars: In this season of Thanksgiving, the Congregational Care Committee would like the members of our church family to stop and think about just how Blessed we all are. Unfortunately, there are many in our community who are struggling. Our committee would like to do something to help them so we have decorated Blessings jars that you will find in the sanctuary. We would like you take a jar home with you and drop your pocket change in the jar each night or a couple of dollars each time you go to the bank or ATM. Return the jars to church on December 18th, 24th, or 25th. The money will be donated to the Salem Community Pantry to help those who are in need. Please take this opportunity to show gratitude for your many blessings by sharing with others and showing God's love.

Christmas Angel Tag Program (Salvation Army)

There are still some tags in Fellowship Hall on which are children's genders, ages, needs, and Christmas wish lists. **Please sign the sheet with numbered tags listed.** Please purchase 1 outfit and 1 toy from the tag and return it to Fellowship Hall or the Church Office. Do not wrap gifts, but place in garbage bag or large shopping bag with the tag affixed to the outside. Do not include gift receipt. *All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 11.*

Order Red Poinsettias Today in Fellowship Hall, through the Church Office during the week, or e-mail phyllis@fpcsaalem.org by tomorrow, November 28. Cost is \$10.00.

Preschool Fundraiser – Fall Flower Bulb Sale

We are selling Yellow Daffodils, Mt. Hood White Daffodils, Red Devon (yellow with red center) narcissus, Red Tulips, and bags of surprise mixed bulbs for \$5.00 a bag which goes directly to the Preschool. Bags of bulbs are in Fellowship Hall.

Daytimers – Wednesday, December 7

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship at 12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. “Walking Canes and Things” program by Jenny Wilms.

Advent Music Program – Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m.

The Haviland Choir, Guest Musicians, and Vocalists will present “*A Weary World Rejoices*” by Joseph M. Martin. A reception will be held during Coffee Time and following the worship service.

Salem Memorial Building Open Gym

First Christian Church and the Steel Valley FCA are sponsoring an open youth activities program for grades 3-12 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Salem Memorial Building during each week. There will be snacks, homework assistance, games, and open gym. The committee discussed ways that we can support these services for Salem youth.

First Sunday of Advent, November 27

5:00 Troop 3 Planning Meeting (110)

Monday, November 28

10:30 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

5:00 Troop 3 Planning Meeting

6:00 Troop 3 Scouts (B) / Troop 2003 G Scouts (209)

Wednesday, November 30

10:30 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-6:15 Carillon Ringers (S) / 6:15 Anthem Ringers (S)

Thursday, December 1

6:00 Mission I and S Committee (Parlor)

7:00 Devotions (Sanctuary)

7:15 Property and Maintenance Committee (Library)

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4

9:15 Advent Sunday School for Youth and Adults

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Lord's Day Worship

3:00 Salem Music Centre Piano Recital (S/FH)

4:30-6:00 Pres-Bees / LOGOS (Library)

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B/FH)

Temporary Pastoral Leadership Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, 304-266-8154
Rev. Trina Lewis, 304-266-8214

Temporary Head of Staff and Administrator Alice Jackson

Clerk of Session Alice Jackson, awilson14@neo.rr.com

Director of Christian Education..... Kim Double, thecenter@neo.rr.com

Director of Music John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Organist.....Nancy McNeal

Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com

Assistant Midweek Sue Skiba, susabell32@aol.com

Administrative Secretary.....Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

Financial Assistant.....Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net