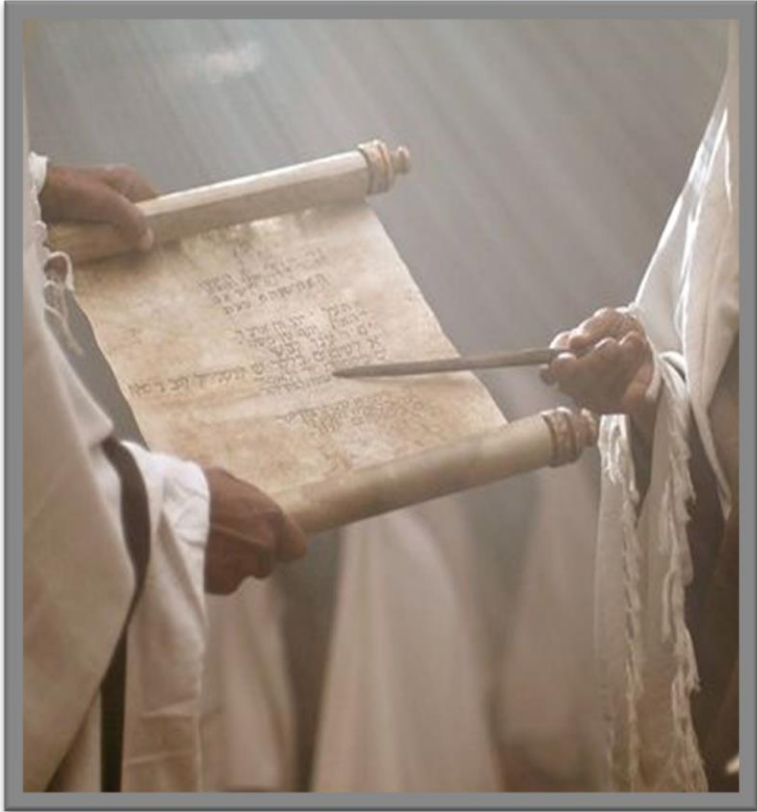


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

January 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany



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

The Solid Rock (Organ)

Tim Doran

Galliard Battaglia (Brass and Percussion)

Samuel Scheidt

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

PRELUDE

Courant Dolorosa (Brass)

Samuel Scheidt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus comes to proclaim good news to us all!

**Jesus releases those who are captive, gives sight to the blind,
helps the oppressed, and declares the year of the Lord's
favor!**

May we go and do likewise, offering hope to a hurting world.

And may it all begin with our worship of God.

*HYMN 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**In our day-to-day lives, we sin in a multitude of ways – by what
we have done and what we have left undone. Confession
allows us to unburden ourselves and lay before God our stark
humanity. Let us offer our prayer, knowing that God is merciful
and offers forgiveness to all who turn to God.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Gracious God, we are far from the people you have called us to
be. We are mired in self-centeredness, seeing things only in**

terms of how they relate to us and our happiness. Turn our hearts, bent as they are towards ourselves, out to the world around us. Make us more concerned with others, with their welfare and happiness, leaving our own concerns to you, O God. Forgive us for our many mistakes and make us anew we pray. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's promise to forgive is sure and everlasting.
Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Canzona Bergamasque (Brass and Percussion) Samuel Scheidt

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Loving God, may your Spirit be with us each, showing us your Word and your Way. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until

midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven *arr. Joseph M. Martin*
Haviland Choir, Congregation, Piano, Brass and Timpani
Shawnee Press, CCL#2595933

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Congregation:

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore His praises sing.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia! Praise the high Eternal One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the High Eternal One.

Congregation:

**Angels in the height, adore Him;
you behold Him face to face;
saints triumphant, bow before Him,
gathered in from every race.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Praise, my soul, praise, my soul, praise, my soul!
Amen, amen, amen! Amen! Amen!

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on

him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Finally, Some Good News”

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

God has not waited to be discovered.

The Lord has taken the initiative

and addressed the Word to humankind in many ways.

Through the Word of God the world was created.

The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ.

Through the Word of God the New Creation

is being formed.

We believe God's Word is God's communication to us.

Although God is free to speak to us in unexpected ways,

we confidently listen for God's Word

in Jesus Christ,

in holy Scripture,

in preaching and the sacraments.

(from “A Declaration of Faith,” 1977)

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Jesus Loves Me (Organ)

Fred Bock

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, whose love is so extravagant, we dedicate these gifts to you. May they go to share your love and care with the world. 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 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; Hymn 2130, The Summons*)

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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

POSTLUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Organ, Brass, and Timpani

*Please stand if you are able.

Some of today's liturgy was inspired by or
came from *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

Questions for thought:

1. When have you received surprising and undeserved grace?
2. Do you give undeserving grace to others?
3. How can we draw strength from God's joy today?

Today's appearance of the Western Reserve Brass is underwritten by the many donors to our Music Fund.

Terry Gale, Trumpet
Andy Schuller, Trumpet
James Scanga, Horn
Jonathan Willis, Trombone
Benjamin Ammon, Tuba
Robert Barnett, Percussion

Star Cards are in a basket at the west entrance if you missed getting a random card last Sunday.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Mike Newman

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been donated by Steve and Wanda Navoyosky.

Open Dates for Bulletins – March 2, 16, 23, April 13, May 4, 11, 18.

Chancel Flowers have been donated anonymously to the Glory of God; and in appreciation and thankfulness for Pastor Annie; and with thankfulness for John, Nancy, Cheryl, the Haviland Choir, and Carillon Ringers for the beautiful music they share with us.

The Environmental Team will meet today at 12:00 p.m. in the Library.

Soup to Go Today – Chicken Noodle

The price of the soup at \$5.00, but with the rise in cost of the ingredients, we will not have as much money to donate to the local missions. If at all possible, please consider adding a small donation when you purchase your soup. Please return jars and lids.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be convened next Sunday, February 2 immediately after morning worship for the purposes of receiving reports and electing officers. 2024 Annual Reports are available today at Sanctuary entrances.

Daytimers – Wednesday, February 5

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring covered dish to share.

Program – Jennifer Zamarelli will speak about “Hospice” and possibly volunteer opportunities.

Coming Soon: 2025 Directory

To update our membership directory (no pictures) and to enhance communications, please let the Church Office know if you no longer have a landline phone and are using a cell phone number, 330-337-9555, or send an e-mail to phyllis@fpcsaalem.org.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2025 is \$33.00 per Active Member. Per Capita is an assessment paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery for each member of the congregation. Per Capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians discern God’s call in their lives. The Per Capita Apportionment due for the year 2025 for First Presbyterian Church of Salem is based upon reported active membership at the end of the year 2023.

Support PDA’s Response to California Wildfires

Give – Please make checks payable to the church and mark ‘California Wildfires’ in the memo line.

Pray – God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble.

As part of the ongoing response and in consultation with the Presbyteries of the Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel, as well as the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii and its leadership, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with faith leaders in the affected communities. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care, PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate assistance. Though the final outcomes of these fires are yet to be known, we are clear that the magnitude of the event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Presbyterians in the region are participating in coordination calls with nonprofit and faith-based disaster organizations to ensure that no one is forgotten.

PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the “GAP” – Give, Act and Pray.

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, January 26

Soup to Go – Chicken Noodle

12:00 Environmental Team (Library)

6:30 Cub Scout Pack Meeting (Basement)

Monday, January 27

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

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

Wednesday, January 28

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

Sunday, February 2

9:00 Adult Church School (Library); Youth Church School

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting (*following Worship*)

6:30 Cub Scout Meeting (Basement)

Monday, February 3

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

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

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

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

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

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsaalem.org

Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsaalem.org

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