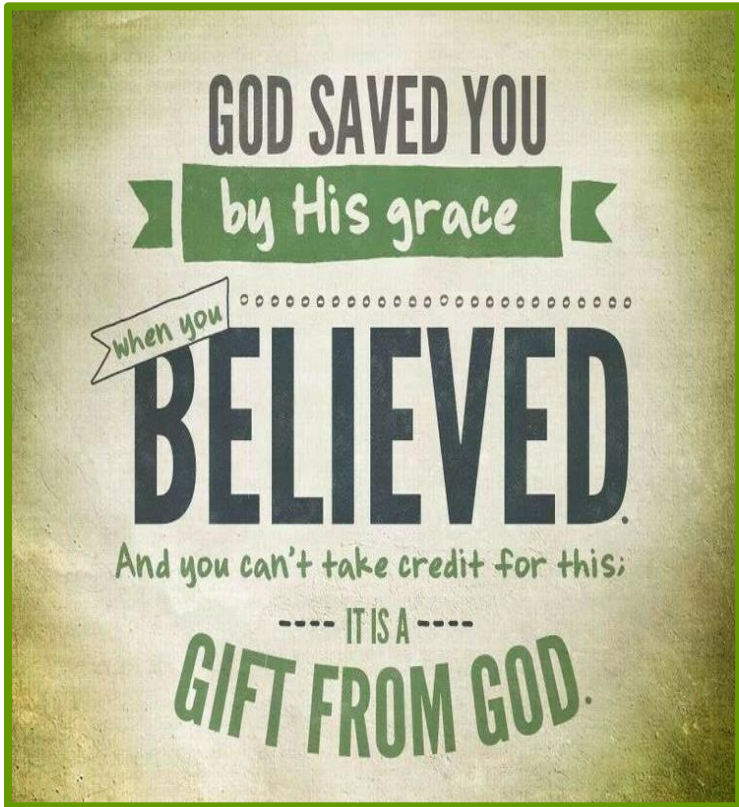


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

March 10, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent



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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sinfonia in B Flat
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

G.F. Handel
J.S. Bach

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

PRELUDE

Andante Religioso

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 139:1-2, 6*)

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

His steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

Those he redeemed from trouble

And gathered in from the lands..."

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 98

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Almighty God, Your Son, the crucified and risen One, holds the keys of Death and Hades. He Who is the light of the world chases away the darkness, declaring, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever..." We confess that we fail to trust in Your goodness, and Your power to overcome sin and evil.

Our fears poison us and our relationships with everything and everyone, including You. Have mercy on us. Breathe a new spirit into us so that we are free to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill us with Christ's Spirit so that we love the world You sent the Only Son to save. We pray in His name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"[W]e have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

(1 John 2:1c-2)

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 *(Unison)*

Jesus reminded the Enemy that we do not live only as material creatures, but as Your obedient people. Send the Spirit with the life-giving Word of God to nourish and heal us so that we are useful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest

this miserable food.”⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹ You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs

Beckenhorst Press, CCL#2595933

The Haviland Choir

John Carter

Surely, surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
And carried our sorrows;
Surely, surely he has borne our griefs.

He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

SERMON

“Of Fiery Serpents and a Wooden Cross”

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

The Holy Spirit equips the Christian community. The early Christians recognized a diversity of abilities and functions as gifts of the Spirit. The gifts were given for the common good to build up the community in love and to equip it for its mission in the world. We are convinced that the Holy Spirit still calls people to various offices in the church and gives diverse gifts to believers. We are to use them to speak and embody plainly the gospel of Christ in the world. No gift is of value without love.

(from “A Declaration of Faith,” 1977)

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS

Sentences of Scripture (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27*)

There are varieties of gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way,

but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Presentation

Ruling Elder Paul Fennema is presented for installation to active service on the Session.

Deacon Sandy Herman is being presented for ordination to the office of Deacon. Gail Tetlow is presented for installation to active service on the Board of Deacons.

Constitutional Questions

Questions of the Congregation:

Do we, the members of the church, accept these persons as deacons and elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Prayer of Ordination and Laying on of Hands

The members of Session are invited to come forward to participate in the act of ordination.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Welcome

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Adagio from Organ Sonata III

A. Guilmant

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)**

You lift us up by the grace of the Son; You breathe life into us by the power of the Spirit; You call us by name to live in Your love. Use us and the offerings we present with joy and thanksgiving for the service of Your mission through 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 394**

There Is a Balm in Gilead

***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

Fugue in D no. 3

G.F. Handel

***Please stand if you are able.**

Question for thought:

When did you memorize John 3:16 and 17?

Liturgist: Mike Newman

Acolyte/Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given by The Melvin and Virginia Wilms Family in memory of Dorothy and Sue Wilms.

Flowers have been given by Goldie Burrier in memory of loved ones; and anonymously in appreciation of Jen Gillis and the Preschool Board for offering a fun and appropriate early childhood environment for the kids.

Order Easter Plants Today in Fellowship Hall. Tulips are \$10 (red, Orange, Purple); Daffodils are \$10; and Lilies are \$13. *Today is the last day to place an order.*

The Preschool kicked off their spring fundraiser, Little Critters Soda from Kast Iron. The fundraiser will run from **March 1 to March 14**. There are four flavors: root beer, orange, black cherry, and blue raspberry. They are one bottle for \$3.00 or two for \$5.00. The Preschool will be selling the soda during Coffee Hour on March 10 and 17.

Our LOGOS Middle School Group will leave after church this morning to meet with the Canfield Presbyterian youth group for an afternoon of games and pizza. The two groups are meeting the next 2 Sundays to get to know other Presbyterian youth.

Our Presbyterian Preschool is planning an Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on **Tuesday morning, March 26**. We are looking for some people who would like to help our preschoolers enjoy that fun Easter Tradition by filling plastic Easter eggs. The Christian Education Committee has informed us that there are lots of plastic eggs available for us to use. All you would have to do is fill them. If you

would like to help fill some eggs, please contact Carol Ricciardi for details.

Annual Church Garage Sale – Saturday, April 27 (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Please help by looking for clean, usable items you no longer need. There will be tables for Kitchen, Music, Holiday, Working Lamps, Linens, Garage, Jewelry, Kids and Toys, Small Furniture, Bikes etc., Antiques, Books, and Pictures. PLEASE: No Clothing, No Shoes, No Electronics, No TVs, No Computers, No Upholstered Furniture, No Food, No Open Toiletries or Makeup. Place all donation items on the stage in Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, April 21. Need pick-up? Call Melissa at 330-853-1955. Proceeds to LOGOS/Sunday School Mission.

Preschool Scholarship Fund

The First Presbyterian Preschool has started an initiative to provide financial assistance to preschool aged children whose parents may need some monetary help in attending preschool this fall. A separate church fund has been established as a means for church members, community members as well as organizations to contribute to this fund to support this project. The fund is called “Preschool Scholarship Fund”. The Preschool Board is also discussing ways to support the funding through fundraisers, etc.

If church members wish to help in this effort to assist parents who need some financial support to send their child to our preschool this fall, you may do so by contributing through your church contributions. Putting the words “Preschool Scholarship Fund” on your check would indicate that you are supporting this fund. Money in church envelopes could also be designated on the envelope with the words “Preschool Scholarship Fund”. The Preschool Board thanks you in advance for your consideration in supporting this important preschool scholarship initiative.

Sunday, March 10

3:00 Sandy Beaver Chapter of Order of Arrow Sipp-o Lodge (FH)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)

Monday, March 11

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
6:00 Scouts Troop 3 (S) and 2003G (209)
7:00 Congregational Care Committee (L)

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)
7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
7:00 Finance and Administration Committee via Zoom

Thursday, March 14

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (L)

Friday, March 15

9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours

Sunday, March 17

9:00 Church School for Grades 6-12 (209)
9:00 Church School for Adults (L)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Service of Worship
11:30 Soup Luncheon (FH)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)

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
Administrative Secretary..... Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org
Financial Assistant.....Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org
Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net