

First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

April 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

Blessed are they who
have not seen and
yet have believed

John 20:29



Knowing-Jesus.com

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

To God Be the Glory
Hymnus

Don Hustad
A. von Fielitz

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

PRELUDE

He Is Risen

Mike Newman, Trumpet

David Lasky

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

“This Jesus God raised up and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear...Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
(Acts 2:32-33, 36)

Christ is Risen!

He is risen, indeed!

Christ is Risen!

He is risen, indeed!

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 104

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Unsearchable Mystery, Your creative power, passion for justice and steadfast love are beyond measure. Amazingly, You reveal Yourself in the life, death and resurrection of the Son, Jesus Christ, in ways that faith can know. We confess that we have been blinded by our sin, seeing only what we think we already understand, listening only to what and who we want to hear, and trusting no one who is not already like us. How easy it is for us to miss the new thing You do in Christ. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Breathe new life into us so that, united with Christ, in Christ and through Christ we do Your will for the up-building of the kingdom and the glory of Your 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 (*Unison*)

Light of Life, Author of Truth, Word made flesh to live among us, bringing 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

Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

¹ We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all

unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir

Sing and Praise His Wondrous Love

Mike Newman, Trumpet

MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., CCL#2595933

For the joys of full salvation
And the peace those joys afford:
Let our souls, and all within us,
Magnify and praise the Lord.

Praise him, all ye floods of ocean;
Praise him, all ye stars above:
Praise him, every living creature;
Praise and sing his wondrous love.

We were lost till Jesus found us,
Till his blood our ransom paid;
Now the gate of life is open,
Full atonement he has made.

Praise him, all ye floods of ocean;
Praise him, all ye stars above:
Praise him, every living creature;
Praise and sing his wondrous love.

Sound aloud the gospel trumpet,
Shout aloud the sweet refrain:
Blessed be the Lord forever,
Blessed be his holy name.

Praise him, all ye floods of ocean;
Praise him, all ye stars above:
Praise him, every living creature;
Praise and sing his wondrous love.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are

written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON: *"The Challenge of Believing"* *Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 106

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Environmental Team

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is on Hymn: St. Columba

Janet Linker

*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 serve to show Your love and glorify Your name. 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 123

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 118*)

The Day of Resurrection!

Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that has no end.

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

POSTLUDE

Recessional

F.W. Asper

*Please stand if you are able.

Question for thought:

In what ways are you centered in Christ and powered by love?

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Tegan Jackson

Acolyte/Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given by Charles and Joyce Pakosta in memory of daughter, Allison Pakosta.

Flowers have been given by Chuck and Joyce Pakosta in memory of daughter, Allison Pakosta; and by Margaret Winch for the gift of Peterson Winch and Claire Janavitz.

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 7, 2024 following morning worship for the purpose of electing an additional Elder to the Class of 2026.

Our LOGOS group of Middle School youth and their Christian Education Leaders are going bowling this afternoon at 2:00 at the Salem Hunt Club Lanes. They have invited the Middle School youth and their Youth Leaders from the Canfield Presbyterian Church to join them.

First Presbyterian Preschool – Come explore the wonderful world of books on April 16 from 5:30-7. Interested and current families are invited for a fun night of learning. Hot dogs, chips, and cookies will be served. For more information, call 330-332-8620.

ANNUAL CHURCH



Saturday, April 27, 2024 (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

“Early Bird” for church members
(Friday, April 26, 1-3 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 & Toys
- Small Furniture
- Bikes, etc.
- Antiques
- Books
- 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.

Thanks for your help!!

Proceeds to LOGOS/Sunday School Mission

Sunday, April 7

11:30 Congregational Meeting

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)

Monday, April 8

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

7:00 Congregational Care Committee (L)

Tuesday, April 9

8:30 am Investment Committee via Zoom

Wednesday, April 10

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, April 11

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (L)

Saturday, April 13

9:00 Making Soup to Go for April 14 – *Vegetable Beef*

10:00-4:00 United Quilt Guild Workshop (FH)

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@fpcsaalem.org

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

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net