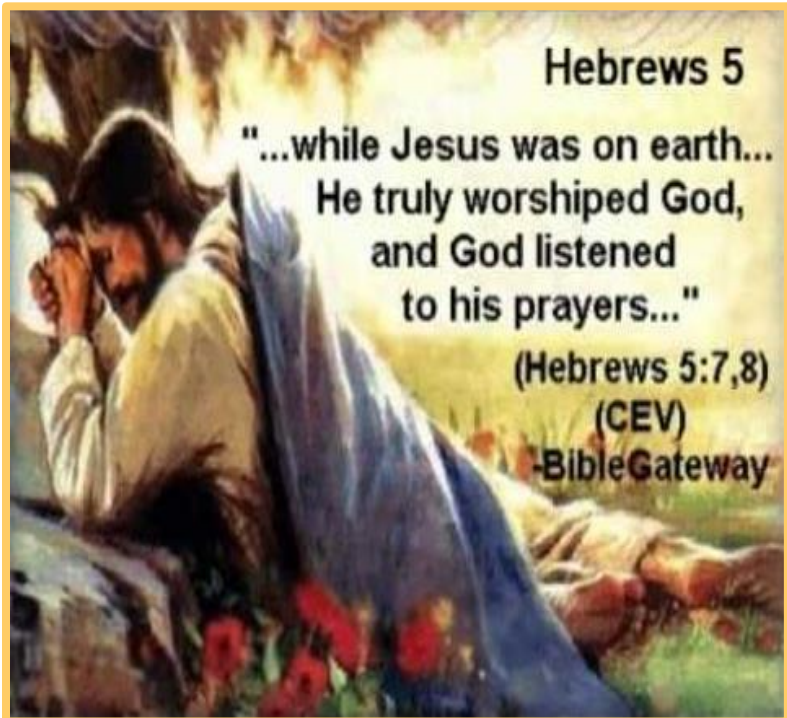


First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

March 17, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God (Organ)* Alice Jordan  
*Canon from Suite, Op. 57 (Bravura Quintet)* Ch. Lefebvre  
*Three Hymns of the Cross (Bravura Quintet) arr. Richard Cerchia*

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

### PRELUDE

*Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace (Bravura Quintet)*  
S.S. Wesley/K. Abeling

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 119:57-58*)

"The LORD is my portion;

**I promise to keep your words.**

I implore your favor with all my heart;

**Be gracious to me according to your promise."**

Let us worship God.

### \*HYMN 356

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**God of all Mercy, from before the first moment of time, You are steadfast love. Suns and planets are born and pass away; galaxies swirl, blossom and go dark in the universe You create. But, Your covenant of grace endures forever. We confess that we are fickle, impatient sinners. We do not trust Your**

faithfulness towards us; and so, we do not bind ourselves firmly to You. We waiver in our commitments, backtrack on our duties, and let our hearts grow cold. We do not deserve even to ask to be forgiven; and yet, in Christ You invite us, and in the Spirit You empower us to pray. Inscribe Your will on our souls. Form us into the image of Jesus Christ so that we live as Your people now and forever. We pray in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Hear the good news! ‘This statement is completely reliable and should be universally accepted: Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners.’ ‘He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin, but alive to all that is good.’” *(1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)*

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)*

**Grant us a clear understanding of Your Word, O God. May the Holy Spirit attend our hearing, thinking and faith, so that we obey You more willingly by following Your Son Jesus Christ more closely. Amen.**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

THE SECOND READING

*Hebrews 5:5-10*

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Calvary's Tree*

*The Haviland Choir*

*Mary McDonald*

Jubilate Music Group, LLC, CCL#2595933

Up Calvary's mountain one dreadful morn,  
walked Christ my Savior, weary and worn;  
facing, for sinners, death on the cross,  
that He might save them from endless loss.

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer!  
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;  
wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading,  
blind and unheeding, dying, dying for me.

"Father, forgive them!" thus did He pray,  
Even while His lifeblood flowed fast away;  
Praying for sinners while in such woe,  
No one but Jesus ever loved so!

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer!  
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;  
wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading,  
blind and unheeding, dying, dying for me.

Through years unnumbered on heaven's shore,  
my tongue shall praise Him forevermore!

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer!  
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;  
wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading,  
blind and unheeding, dying, dying for me,  
dying, dying for me, for me.

#### THE GOSPEL READING

*John 12:27-33*

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the

judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON                      *“What God Promises”*                      *Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 361 (*verses 1, 2, 3, 5*)                      *How Firm a Foundation*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery  
which the Scriptures describe in various ways.**

**It is called**

**the sacrifice of a lamb,  
a shepherd’s life given for his sheep,  
atonement by a priest.**

**It is also called**

**ransom of a slave,  
payment of debt,  
satisfaction of a legal penalty, and  
victory over the powers of evil.**

**These are expressions of a truth  
beyond the reach of our understanding:  
the depths of God’s love for us.**

*(from “The Confession of 1967”)*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*One Great Hour of Sharing*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*My Heart Ever Faithful*

*J.S. Bach*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Your love for us transcends more than we can begin to imagine, Holy One. We present our offerings of thanksgiving from that which You have provided for us. Guide them and us to work for Your purposes, and to the glory of Your name, Creator, Redeemer and Power. 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 482

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

\*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

*Blessed Assurance (Bravura Quintet)*  
*You Shall Go Out with Joy (Organ)*

*P.P. Knapp/JEK*  
*Douglas Wagner*

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Question for thought:**

What kind of promise have you ever made that you found difficult to keep?

*Today's appearance by the Bravura Woodwind Quintet is underwritten by the many donors to our Music Fund.*

**Musicians:** *Monica Meffan, Flute; Rebecca Bickel, Oboe; Al Colella, Clarinet; Carol Childers, Bassoon; James Scanga, Horn*

**Liturgist:** Ruth Newman

**Acolyte/Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins** have been given anonymously in appreciation of Ed and the Property and Maintenance Committee for taking such great care of our physical church home.

**Flowers** have been given anonymously in appreciation of the Scouts for all they do for our church and community.

**The Preschool kicked off their spring fundraiser, Little Critters Soda from Kast Iron.** 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 today.

**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 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 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.

## Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday service next Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday service on March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday service on March 29 at 12:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday service on March 31 at 10:30 a.m.

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on  
Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.*

**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 in the Garage Sale boxes 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 17

**11:30 Soup Luncheon** (FH)

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)

Monday, March 18

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

6:00 Scouts Troop 3 (S) and 2003G (209)

Wednesday, March 20

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, March 21

**7:00 Regular Session Meeting** (L) – In Person and Hybrid

Palm Sunday, March 24

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 Environmental Team** (L)

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)

Monday, March 25

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

6:00 Scouts Troop 3 (S) and 2003G (209)

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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](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)

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)