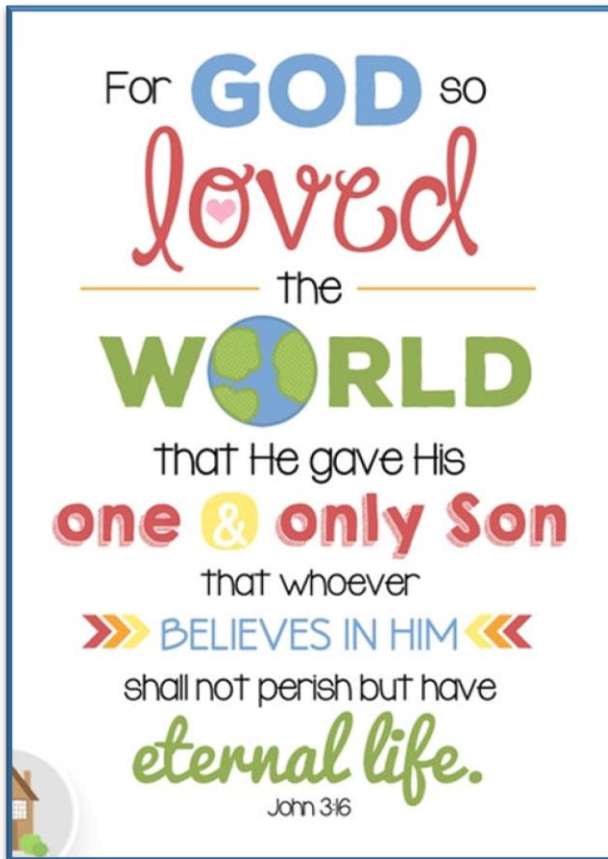


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

March 5, 2023

10:30 a.m.

2nd 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

*Pastorale on "Blessed Assurance" (Nancy McNeal) Robert Lau
Brethren, We Have Met to Worship (Nancy McNeal)*

*Liebesleider (Lydia Andres, Violin) Carolyn Hamlin
Fritz Kreisler*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 121:1-2, 7*)

"I lift up my eyes to the hills –

From whence does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;

He will keep your life."

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 485

To God Be the Glory

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

O Holy Love, You did not spare Yourself from the suffering caused by human sin. We confess that we turn away from Your call to new life. You commissioned Abram to follow Your way, to be a blessing to all peoples. We seek to follow our own ways, colliding with others, forcing the weak into the shadows or worse. Have mercy on us; forgive our sin and fill us with the Spirit of life. May the cross of Christ be for us the healing that frees us to love with Your love and to bless others in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.” (1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)

Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

*THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal One, Creator of the heavens and the earth, breathe on us the Spirit so that we not only hear the words of scripture, but are grasped by the power of Your love, revealed and enacted in Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Still, My Soul

Lois Dunn, Barb Fennema, Cheryl McDevitt, Ruth Newman

Jan Cox, Piano

Carillon Ringers

arr. by Joel Raney

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Beneath the Cross

The Haviland Choir

Getty/Lennox, arr. by Dan Forrest

The Lorenz Corporation, CCL#2595933

*Lydia Andres, Violin; Cheryl McDevitt, Flute;
Nancy McNeal, Piano*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me
hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus His family is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams;
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown,
We follow in His footsteps where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us, to be His perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus we will gladly live our lives.
Beneath the cross of Jesus we will gladly live our lives.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with

everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.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.

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON *“God’s Life-giving Mission”* Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**In Jesus Christ the Word became flesh,
and God hallowed material reality.**

Jesus presented his body as a living sacrifice.

**In his ministry, he used common things – like nets, fish,
baskets, jars, ointment, clay, towel and basin,
water, bread, and wine.**

**Working in and through these material things,
Jesus blessed and healed people,**

**reconciled and bound them into community, and
exhibited the grace, power, and presence
of the Kingdom of God.**

{from "The Directory for Worship," Presbyterian Church U.S.A.}}

MINUTE FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing

Mark Smith

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Draw Me Nearer

The Haviland Choir

arr. by Jack Schrader

Hope Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

Jan Cox, Piano

Draw me nearer, O nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died.

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,
And it told thy love to me.
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to thee.

Draw me near, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died,
draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to thy precious, bleeding side.

There are depths of love that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea.
There are heights of joy that I may not reach,
till I rest in peace with thee.

Draw me near, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died,
draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to thy precious, bleeding side.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, nearer, dear Lord,
nearer, dear Lord.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Almighty God, we thank You for calling Abram, our ancestor in faith, to bring us the blessings of Your reconciling love through Jesus Christ. May our offerings serve to further the mission You intend in this time and place. Help us to fulfill our commitment to be Christ's faithful disciples unto eternal life. It is in his name that we pray. 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 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*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.

*POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Innes

*Please stand if you are able.

Question for thought:

1. Nicodemus went to Jesus with his questions at night, implying that he didn't want to be seen in public associating with Jesus. How do we hide our faith? (John 3:19-21 are harsh words, but maybe an occasion for reflection and repentance.)

Liturgist: Gloria Shafer

Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn, Jim Newman

Bulletins: Given by Mickey Buck in memory of her parents, Norm and Jeanie Smith who were married in this church on March 5, 1949!

Available dates are March 19, 26, April 23, 30, June 11, 18. Cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.

Flowers: Given by Steve and Kathy Stewart in loving memory of Kathy's parents, Rex and Dorie Mitchell and her sister, Karen Wilson.

Rosebud: The rosebud on the Communion table is for Exten Scott Adams, born on February 22. Parents are Rachel Hill and Kenny Adams. Grandparents are Tom and Gloria Shafer.

Order Easter Plants Today in Fellowship Hall

Daffodils - \$10.00 / Tulips - \$10.00 (Select color: Lavender, Orange, Pink, Purple, Red, White) / Lilies - \$12.00. During the week, call the Church Office, 330-337-9555, or e-mail phyllis@fpcsaalem.org.

New Membership Directories are at Sanctuary entrances.

The Environmental Team will meet today in the Library immediately following worship.

Are You Interested in Uniting with FPC of Salem?

If so, Pastor Frank would like to organize a new-member orientation class for you. His schedule is flexible enough to accommodate most weekdays or a Sunday morning. The Lenten-Easter season is a traditional time when people have joined a church (Though, of course, we are not limited to that.). If you would like to become an active part of the faith community and ministry that is FPCS or just want to know more details, please speak to Frank, or call the church office at 330-337-9555.

Turn your Clocks Ahead this Saturday, March 11

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 12

Soup and Bread Luncheon – Sunday, March 19

Come share your favorite recipe of soup in Fellowship Hall. Event sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee.

Soup to Go – Sunday, March 26

Vegetable Beef / \$5 a quart / Please return jar and lid.

Lenten Study – The young people and the (ah hum) not young people are joining for Sunday School during the six Sundays in Lent. Specifically, we will share Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws. Each week we will see how God “lifts up outcasts” (not just sinners). Come join us during Lent from 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Library.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** provides relief from natural disasters (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), food for the hungry (Presbyterian Hunger Program), and support for the poor and oppressed (Self-Development of People). Please give what you can. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. *OGHS Envelopes are in the Pew Racks and at Sanctuary entrances.*

Blue Bins in the Kitchen are for Recycling ONLY.

2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5

11:30 Environmental Team (Library)

4:30 LOGOS (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement; Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 6

10:30 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

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

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Tuesday, March 7

10:00 – 9:00 United Quilt Guild (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, March 8

10:30 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 9

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (Library)

7:00 Finance and Administration Committee *via Zoom*

Sunday, March 12

9:15-10:00 Lent Sunday School for Youth and Adults (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour

10:30 Service of Worship – *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

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