

First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

*“We are centered in Christ and powered by love.”*

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*Carol of the Manger  
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Dale Wood  
Alice Jordan*

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

### PRELUDE

*Joseph Dearest*

*Richard Warner*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

**And our spirits rejoice in you.**

We will praise you as long as we live.

**We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.**

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

**But will trust in you – Creator of heaven and earth,**

the One who gives food to the hungry,

**the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.**

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

**as we worship you in this place,**

**and leave filled with your love.**

### HYMN – *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Prepare the Way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

### THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

*Jim, Ruth, and Mike Newman*

HYMN – *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Comfort, comfort you my people,  
Tell of peace, thus says our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Bowed beneath oppression's load.  
Speak you to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
And their warfare now is over.

\*HYMN 8

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

When we are weighed down with guilt and shame we are not free to rejoice with our whole selves. Let us confess all that pulls us from God, confident that we will be forgiven.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Holy God, we confess that rejoicing can be difficult for us. We are often burdened by hurts, held back by past wrongs and our spirits are dampened by the brokenness of our world. But you call us to forgive those who have hurt us, to trust that you have wiped away our sins and forgotten them forever, you call us to seek you out and to proclaim your goodness even in the darkest and most broken places in our world. Teach us to rejoice in you always, remind us of David who danced and sang to you at the top of his lungs. Help us to fling off all that takes us away from your worship and fill us with your joy that is never taken away. Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God passes the heirloom of mercy down from generation to generation, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

**As we open our hearts to God, we are filled  
with the joy that was sung at the Birth,  
with the Hope that walked among us,  
with the Grace which is always with us.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

\*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*)

**Speak to us, Lord.**

**Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,  
the hoping, the longing,  
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.**

**Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,  
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

*Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little  
clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to  
rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is  
in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall  
return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his  
flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of  
the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall  
be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of  
peace.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Still, Still, Still*

*The Haviland Choir*

*arranged by Jack Schrader*

Hope Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill:  
his mother's arms the Christ-Child holding,  
safe and warm with love enfolding.  
Still, still, still, to do the Father's will.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, midst the oxen and the sheep.  
The angels come down to tell his story,  
shepherds come round to see his glory.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, O holy Christ-Child sleep.

Still, still, still, to do the Father's will.  
Thee, Great God, our voice we raise,  
in worship and wonder sing thy praise!  
Still, still, still, to do the Father's will.

THE GOSPEL READING

*Luke 1:39-45*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

*"Finding Something Good"*

*Rev. Annie Parker*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 13

*Prepare the Way*

### CONFIRMATION TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

#### PRESENTATION

Judy Herron:

Tegan Jackson, Tyson Jackson, Joseph Seefeldt, and Knox Tonkinson, are presented by the Session for the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. They have professed their faith to the Session and they will accept greater responsibility in the life of the church and God's mission in the world.

We rejoice that you have declared your faith and desire to share with us in our common ministry. In baptism you were joined to Christ and made members of his body. In the community of the people of God you have learned of God's purpose for you and for all creation. You have been nurtured at the table of our Lord and called to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor Annie: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? If so say I do.

**I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? If so, say I will with God's help.

**I will with God's help.**

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?  
If so, say I will with God's help.

**I will with God's help.**

Let us rise and together profess our faith as one as we say the Apostles' Creed together.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**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.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

*(The Confirmands kneel and the teachers and sponsors  
place their hands on their heads.)*

Pastor Annie: Let us pray:

O Lord, uphold Tegan, Tyson, Joseph, and Knox by your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in them your gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.

*Now the Confirmands and their mentors will exchange the crosses they made as a part of their Confirmation Class.*

Mentor: (Name) remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Bill Penfold: Tegan, Tyson, Joseph, and Knox, by professing your faith publicly, you have expressed your intention to grow in the covenant God made with you in your baptism. May the Spirit continue to strengthen and sustain you in the worship and mission of the church. Amen. Alleluia.

Pastor Annie: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

\*HYMN 522

*Lord, When I Came Into This Life*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

*James Mansfield*

*Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are in Pew Racks.*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**In these moments, Father God, remind us of those who are yearning to be lifted to their feet, those who hunger for hope, those who look for peace, and may our gifts be used to serve them. In Jesus' name, 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 28

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; "Grant us peace."*)

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

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

POSTLUDE

*French Noël*

*Cesar Franck*

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Questions for thought:**

1. Why do we attend church?
2. Why do we need to attend church?
3. How can we support one another as bearers of the good news?

**Head Ushers:** Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

**Liturgist:** Geoff Goll

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Please Join Us in Fellowship Hall** immediately following Worship for a Reception to welcome our new members, Tegan Jackson, Tyson Jackson, Joseph Seefeldt, and Knox Tonkinson.

## **Prepare the Way – The Perfect Gift**

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us. Our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of critical need; and prepare the way for our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We are there with the leaders of our church – past, present and future. Please join us in the Christmas Joy Offering. *If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*

**Calendars for 2025**, compliments of Stark Memorial Funeral Home, are at Sanctuary entrances.

**2025 Offering Envelopes** are in Fellowship Hall. If you do not have envelopes, but would like a box, please call the Church Office.

**2025 Flower and Bulletin Donors** are needed. Vases are \$10 each and Bulletins are \$15 a Sunday. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower and/or bulletin order and wish to continue in 2025.

## **Christmas Eve Service – Tuesday, December 24**

7:30 p.m. / The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper / Candle-lighting

**The Church Office** will close at Noon on Christmas Eve and re-open on Thursday, December 26. *Merry Christmas!*

**All Contributions** received in the Church Office by Noon on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, will be credited to 2024 giving. Contributions received on or after Thursday, January 2, 2025, will be credited to 2025 giving. The only exceptions are contributions mailed to the church and postmarked on or before December 31, 2024.

**Per Capita Apportionment** for 2025 is \$33.00 for each Active Member, an assessment paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery.

**Annual Reports for 2024** are due in the Church Office by Friday, January 3, 2025. Reports will be distributed the week before the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting.

**NOTICE** – By action of the Session, a **Congregational Meeting** for the sole purpose of electing Church Officers will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2025 immediately following worship. Elders, Class of 2027 – Debbie Boyd, Ruth Newman, Sue Skiba, Barbara Yonker; Deacons, Class of 2027 – Julie Johnson, Susan Kyser, Wanda Navoyosky, Brenda Swinhart

**From the Environmental Team:**

For those of you who still enjoy celebrating Christmas with a live tree, here is information where you can recycle your tree. There is a CCH drop off site at Memorial Park where you can take your tree from December 27 through January 31. Look for the “Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree Here” sign.

# POINSETTIAS

*Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service,  
or on Thursday, December 26.*

*Anonymously in Memory of Jess and Berneda Fitch and*

*Jim and Marty Hollinger*

*Kathie Baker in Memory of Bob Baker, and All Family Passed*

*George Bell*

*Bob and Sharon Bortz in Honor of and in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Scott and Debbie Boyd in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Mary Bryan in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Mickey Buck in Memory of parents, Norm and Jeanne Smith, and*

*Dick and Carol Dougherty*

*Fred and Phyllis Denton in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Lois Dunn in Memory of Wendell Dunn and Our Loved Ones*

*Barb and Paul Fennema to the Glory of God*

*Geoff and Kim Goll in Memory of Our Parents*

*Sandy Herman in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Ross and Alice Jackson in Honor of Our Children and*

*Grandchildren, and in Memory of Loved Ones*

*The Karmazin Family in Memory of Dena Lodge,*

*Jim and Jane Mohr, and Michael Karmazin*

*John Krauss to the Glory of God*

*Marilyn Loudon in Memory of Loved Ones and Loving Family*

*Ellen Maticcik in Memory of Alan Knizat, Frank Maticcik,*

*Carol Maticcik, and Richard and Ruth Speidel*

*Cheryl and Bill McDevitt in Memory of Our Parents, Retta and*

*William E. McDevitt, and Katherine and Detmar Weikart*

*Bob and Susan Merry in Memory of Erma Eaton*

*Steve and Wanda Navoyosky in Memory of Mr. and Mrs.*

*Stephen Navoyosky, and Mr. and Mrs. George Phillis*

*Chuck and Joyce Pakosta in Memory of Daughter, Allison Pakosta*

*Michael and Sandra Quinn in Memory of Our Parents and*

*Ellen Quinn*

*Roch and Denise Reiter in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Lorin and Marcia Shepard in Memory of Our son Michael and*

*his Grandparents*

*The Skiba Family in Memory of Joe, Regina and Mark Skiba,*

*Clarence and Joan Reed, and*

*to the Glory of Our Newborn King*

*Alan and Darlene Votaw in Memory of Arthur Votaw*

*Karl Wright in Memory of Loved Ones*

*The Winch Family in Memory of Donald Winch*

### **Vision Statement**

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

Sunday, December 22

**Reception for Confirmands following Worship (FH)**

6:00 Cub Scout Christmas Party (FH)

Tuesday, December 24

9:00 – 12:00 Church Office Hours

7:30 Christmas Eve Service – Communion / Candle-lighting

Wednesday, December 25

*Merry Christmas!*

Sunday, December 29

9:00 Adult Church School Class (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)

10:30 Service of Worship

Tuesday, December 31

9:00 – 12:00 Church Office Hours

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

*Happy New Year!*

Thursday, January 2 – Committee Night

**6:00 Christian Education** (Library) / **Mission I and S** (Parlor)

**7:00 Devotions** (Sanctuary)

**7:15 Property** (Library) / **Worship, Music, Arts** (Parlor)

Pastor .....Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884

Office Hours: Mon. – Weds., 9:30 am-4 pm; Thurs., 9:30 am-12:30 pm

[pastorannie@fpcsalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsalem.org)

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)

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