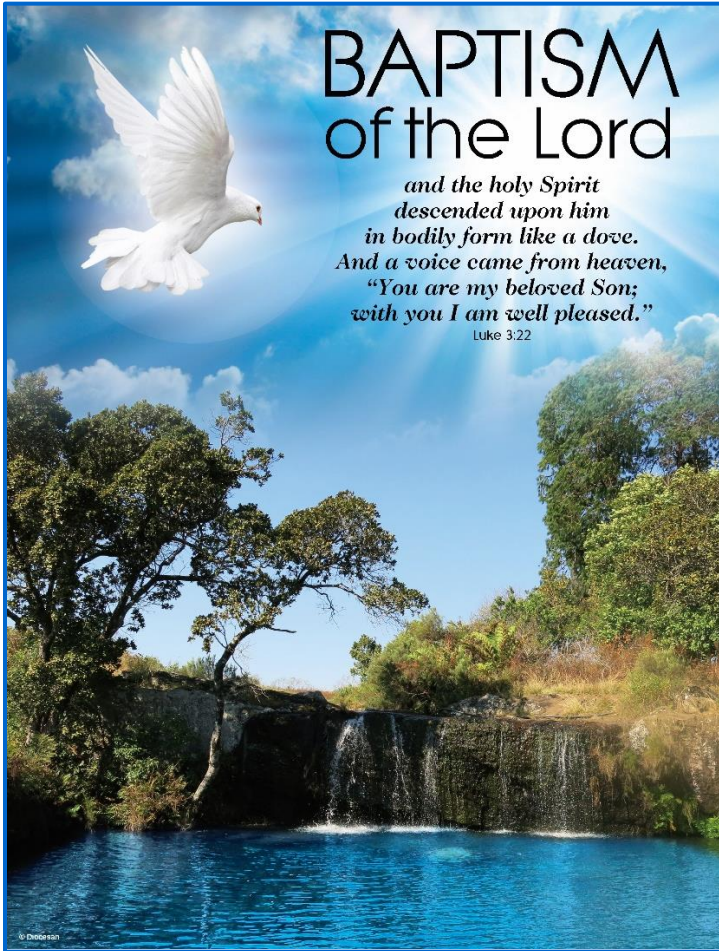


First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

January 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.



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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*We Three Kings  
Ever Faithful, Ever Near*

*Jan Cox, Organist  
John H. Hopkins  
Franklin Ritter*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

PRELUDE

*Ancient of Days*

*Felipe de Giardini*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 29:10-11*)

"The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

**The LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

May the LORD give strength to his people!

**May the LORD bless his people with peace!"**

Let us worship God.

\*HYMN 492

*Baptized in Water*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Creator God, You sent the Son with the power of the Holy Spirit to become one with us. Christ shared fully in our humanness – birth, life and death – so that we can be reconciled to You in wholeness. We confess that we have not fully opened ourselves to his invitation. He gave himself without reserve; we hold back our love. He shared his life with the lost, the lonely, the outcast, and sinners; we are sparing in our caring. Through His resurrection, You opened the way to life in Your**

kingdom; but, we turn away. God, have mercy on us. Forgive our coldness of heart and alight us with the brilliant flame of the Spirit coming through Christ the Savior. Renew in us the baptismal waters that cleanse us of sin, and raise us to new life that glorifies You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – One God, forever. Amen.

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“(I)f we walk in the light as (God) himself is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” *(1 John 1:7)*

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)*

**Triune God, the Spirit brooded over creation; through Christ the Word were all things created; and, at Your command light broke forth out of the chaos. Grant that we may receive light from light and be made new through Word and sacrament in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

*Genesis 1:1-5*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was

light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

THE SECOND READING

*Acts 19:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — <sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*The Haviland Choir*

*Come to the Water*

*arr. by Jack Schrader*

Hope Publishing Co., CCL#2595933

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
without money, without price.  
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:

without money, without strife.

Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.

And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:

all who labor, who labor without rest.

How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.

Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:

bring the children without might.

Easy the load and light: Come to the Lord, the Lord.

Come to the water; come to the Lord.

#### THE GOSPEL READING

*Mark 1:4-11*

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON:

*"Why??!!!"*

*Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 71 (*Tune 442 – Aurelia*)    *Lord, When You Came to Jordan*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**The Holy Spirit enables people to become believers.**

**The Spirit enabled people of all races, classes, and nations  
to accept the good news of what God had done in Christ,  
repent of their sins, and enter the community of faith.**

**Today this same Holy Spirit**

**makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel  
and leads us into the Christian community.**

**The Spirit brings us out of death into life,  
out of separation into fellowship.**

*(from "A Declaration of Faith," 1977)*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Judy Herron*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Away in a Manger*

*James R. Murray*

*Cash Offering will go to our Board of Deacons.*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**John baptized Jesus into the ancient hope of Your kingdom.  
Through faith in Christ, by the power of the Spirit, You baptize  
us into the Source of Your kingdom. Bless us and our offerings  
to the service of Your gracious rule, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*All who seek the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ  
are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *including* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION /  
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sins*)

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

You gave us a vision of your holy kingdom  
that we might hunger after righteousness  
and thirst for justice,  
and long for the day when peace will triumph  
over the pride and greed of nations.

Therefore, we praise you,

joining our voices with the servants around heaven's throne  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice,  
dedicated to your service.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**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.**

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*The bread and the cup will be received by coming forward and given a piece of bread, taking the cup, and returning the cup to a tray. If you cannot come forward, you will be served in the pew.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Unison*)

**O God, we give you thanks and praise, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*HYMN 495

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*

\*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.

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



POSTLUDE

*Bouree in F Major*

*Georg Phillip Telemann*

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Question for thought:**

How do you live your baptism every day?

**Liturgist:** Rev. Trina Lewis

**Acolyte/Light-Bearer:** Tyson Jackson

**Bulletins** have been given by Tom Mercer in memory of wife, Marilyn Mercer.

**Bulletin Donors** are needed for 2024. Standing Orders have been placed on the calendar. Open dates are January 21, 28, February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 17, 24, April 28. Cost is \$15 a Sunday.

**Chancel Flowers** have been given by Paul and Barb Fennema in honor of John Fennema's Birthday, and anonymously in memory of loved ones.

**Chancel Flower Donors** are needed for 2024. Standing Orders have been placed on the calendar. Open dates are January 14 (1 vase), January 21 (1 vase), January 28 (1 vase), February 11 (1 vase), February 18 (1 vase), March 10 (1 vase), March 17 (2 vases), April 28 (1 vase). Cost is \$10 a vase.

**Annual Reports for 2023** were due in the Church Office last Friday. Please turn in your report as soon as possible for the Annual Report to be approved by Session on January 18.

**Bob Evans Community Fundraiser for First Presbyterian Preschool** will be held on Wednesday, January 10 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Flyers are at Sanctuary entrances today and must be presented at time of checkout. (2299 E. State Street in Salem)

**Per Capita Apportionment for 2024** is \$32.50 for each Active Member, paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. Per Capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians discern God's call in their lives. The Per Capita Apportionment due for the year 2024 for First Presbyterian Church of Salem is based upon reported active membership at the end of the year 2022.

**HELP!** Salem Mobile Meals really needs drivers. If you can help in any way, please call 330-332-2160. ~ *Geoff Goll, President*

### Sunday, January 7

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)

### Monday, January 8

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

**2:00 Congregational Care Committee (L)** – *Note Time Change*

6:00 Scouts Troop 3 and 2003G (Scout Room/209)

**7:00 Board of Deacons (L)**

### Tuesday, January 9

**8:30 a.m. Investment Committee** *via Zoom*

### Wednesday, January 10

10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

**7:00 Finance and Administration** *via Zoom*

### Thursday, January 11

**5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (L)**

### Friday, January 12

8:30 Church Office Open (Closes at 11:30)

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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)