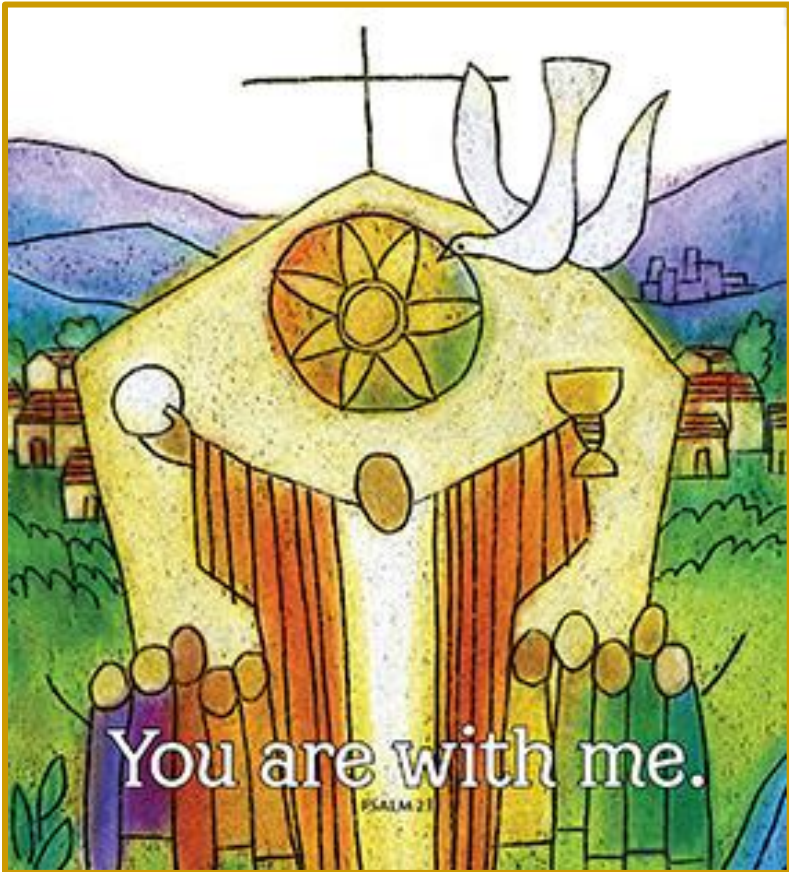


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

September 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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 GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Deo Gracias (tune: Agincourt Song)

Gordon Young

Morning Has Broken

Fred Bock

Lead, Kindly Light

Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 119:33, 35-36*)

“Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

And I will observe them to the end.

Lead me in the path of your commandments,

For I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees,

And not to selfish gain.

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 261

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Almighty God, Whose righteousness is the foundation of all creation, we confess that we have ignored your ways of truth and holiness. Instead of seeking the good of our neighbor, we pursue our own goals. Instead of enjoying the beauty of Your creation, we try to add to our personal pleasures. Focused on ourselves, we overlook the demands of Your love, and so we sin against You, our neighbor and the world. In Your mercy, forgive us, O God. Cleanse us of all that is not Your will, and help us to do justice, love kindness and humbly walk with our Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray in his name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24*)

“Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us. Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.”

Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

*THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

To know Your justice, O God, we must turn to Your love. To know Your mercy, we must turn to Your Instruction. Send to us the Holy Spirit, teacher of Your love and revealer of Your mercy through Jesus Christ, who is our Judge and Redeemer. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Come and See

The Haviland Choir

Martin, Barrett

Shawnee Press, Inc., CCL#2595933

Come and see, come and see what the Lord has done,
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.

He filled the darkness with light.

He filled the heavens by His great might.

He filled the earth and the seas.

He spoke and all of life came to be.

Come and see. Come and see, come and see
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.

Come and see what the Lord has done.

God's Spirit moved upon the waters,
through silent depths and empty heights.

Into that endless night, God spoke and there was light.

Come and see, come and see.
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.
He filled the darkness with light.
He filled the heavens by His great might,
He filled the earth and the seas.
He spoke and all of life came to be.

Come and see. Come and see, come and see
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8:15-20

¹⁵ he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. ¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases." ¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹ A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

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

SERMON

"The Court Where Jesus is Judge"

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 148

At the Name of Jesus

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison; The Apostles Creed, Traditional*)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and was buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
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

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Margaret Winch

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth/arr. John Carter

*Peace and Global Witness Offering envelopes
are in the Pew Racks and at Sanctuary entrances.*

Loose Cash Offering today will go to our Board of Deacons.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

You are pure good, perfect justice, immeasurable loving kindness, O God. Every instant of our life depends on You. Fill us with gratitude for all the gifts with which You bless us; call to our minds those we overlook, so that we can thank you all

the more. Bless our offerings to accomplish Your will through Jesus Christ the Lord. 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...

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
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*)

Gracious God, you have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Transfigure us by your Spirit, and let your love shine in all we do and say, so that the world may see the light of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 507 (*vss. 1, 3-5*)

I Come with Joy

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; 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.

*POSTLUDE

Epilogue

Norman Gilbert

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

What is the relationship between God's justice and God's love?

What does that mean for you, Christian?

Liturgist: Rev. Trina Lewis

Bulletins: Given anonymously in memory of September 11, 2001. Open Dates for Bulletins are November 5, 19, 26, December 3, 24. Cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.

Flowers: Given by Bob and Sue Merry for the Love of Family; and by Goldie Burrier with many thanks to the Congregational Care Committee for meals. Open Dates are November 5 (2 vases), November 19 (2 vases), December 3 (1 vase). Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

Our ***Peace and Global Witness Offering*** enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Envelopes are in the Pew Racks and at Sanctuary entrances. The Mission I & S Committee set a goal of \$3200 for this special offering, with 25% share given to "Save 22", a Veteran's outreach agency.

A New Member Class was held today and will also be held next Sunday, September 17 at 9:15 a.m. Please let the Church Office know if you are interested in learning more about what it means to unite with First Presbyterian Church.

A Church School Brunch and Table Discussion will be held next Sunday, September 17 at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our church Session and the Christian Education Committee would like to invite those of you who are interested in our church school programming for children and youth and our adult 'Growing in Faith' activities to attend. You can help by sharing your ideas and your time with us.

Tai Chi Class is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall led by Rev. Frank Lewis. The class is free and open to everyone of all ages. Movements are slow and gentle, promoting balance, stability, stress reduction, mental focus, flexibility, inner strength, and overall wellness. Come join us!

Preschool Enrolling for 2023-2024 School Year: The five day a week program combines the very best elements of a Preschool from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., and Childcare for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children from 12-4:30 p.m. We work with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to help families who are working or in school pay for childcare. Call 330-332-8620 to enroll your child.

The First Presbyterian Preschool needs some supplies for the beginning of school: Paper Towels, Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Facial Tissues, Play Dough, Fruit and Vegetable Cups, Granola and Cereal Bars. The Preschool will appreciate it very much if anyone can donate any of these items.

Preschool Fundraiser – Heggy's Candy

Chocolate Covered Oreos, Milk and Dark Chocolate Buckeyes, Milk and Dark Chocolate Cashews, Milk and Dark Chocolate Pecans. Completed forms and cash/checks must be turned in by October 4. Forms are in Fellowship Hall today or call the Preschool, 330-332-8620, or the Church Office, 330-337-9555. Orders will be delivered on Wednesday, October 18.

Information about Recycling: Recently, there have been changes in how recyclables are accepted at the recycling center in Salem behind the Police station. There, they must be sorted and placed into the appropriately marked bins. We checked with CCH Recycling Group concerning the recycling bin in our church parking lot. They informed us that our recycling bin will continue to be a mixed bin. You do not need to sort what you put into our bin. So, continue to bring your recyclables to our bin but please, remember to empty your plastic bags of recyclables and take the plastic bag with you.

Monday, September 11

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 Congregational Care Committee (Library)

Wednesday, September 13

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 Haviland Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7:00 Finance and Administration Committee *via Zoom*

Thursday, September 14

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (Library)

Friday, September 15

9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours (Closed 12:00-4:00 p.m.)

Sunday, September 17

9:00 Church School Brunch and Table Discussion (Fellowship Hall)

9:15 New Member Class (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

Monday, September 18

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 20

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 Haviland Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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 Alice Jackson, awilson14@neo.rr.com
Director of Music John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com
Organist..... Nancy McNeal
Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com
Administrative Secretary..... Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsaalem.org
Financial Assistant..... Mary Banar, office@fpcsaalem.org
Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net