

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas



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 are centered in Christ and powered by love."

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

O Blessed Emmanuel

J.S. Bach

Break Forth, O Beauteous Morning Light

J.S. Bach

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

PRELUDE

As with Gladness Men of Old

Raymond Haan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

Proclaim, give praise, and say 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.'

Come with shouts of joy and hearts full of peace to worship the Lord.

For God has rescued us with a mighty hand and holds us in safety, close to God's heart.

Let us sing praises to the God who claimed us and saved us!

Let us be living sacrifices of praise to God always!

*HYMN 28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Wisdom delivers a holy people from a nation of oppressors. She enters the soul of a servant of the Lord, withstanding dread and fear with wonders and signs. As we confess that our strivings for Holy wisdom fall short, we lament the oppression of the nations. As we confess that we don't always act as though our servant

souls are imbued by God's wisdom, we lament the power of dread and fear over us. Let us offer, therefore, prayers of lament and confession.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Redeem your world, O Lord. We lament the destruction caused by worldly rulers extending their power through force. We lament the ways that the tendrils of oppression have taken hold among your people, your creation.

Redeem your people, O Lord. Too often, we fail to act in ways that reflect your love. Too often, we fail to speak your truth. When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from sin, liberate us from the grasp of oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Gospel of John reminds us that

"From Christ's fullness, we have all received grace upon grace."

Hear this good news with joy:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and, in Him, all things are being made new. 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*)

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through

Him. As we read and reflect on your Scriptures, O Lord, we pray that your Spirit will move among us so that we might hear your Word, your light shining in the darkness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM
Epiphany

The Haviland Choir
Mark Wilson

Jenson Publications, CCL#2595933

Slowly riding, pressing ever onward,
Wisemen search for a royal son.
Safely led, at last the three behold him,
kneel to worship the chosen one.

Child of light, whose coming brings
a brightness to all earthly things,
may your presence heal and bind
all people in one heart and mind.

Speaking thus, they offer earthly treasure;
priceless gifts for a matchless king.
He is the one who will end our fear;
will light our darkness, dry our tears.

He is the one who will bring us peace;
will bid our foolish quarrels cease.
Seeking, searching, still we hope to find him,
King of Love and Prince of Peace.

Child of light, reveal, we pray,
your spirit in our lives today.
Lead us by your love to show
your healing grace to those we know.

King of Love, be near us in our sorrows,
bring from suffering sweet release.
Child of light, illumine now our darkness;
guide us in the ways of peace.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All

things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ")¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *"Grace Upon Grace"* *Rev. Annie Parker*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 302

I Danced in the Morning

*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)

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

I Wonder As I Wander

Robert Lau

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Unison)*

**We thank you for all of the spiritual and material gifts that you
have given us, O Lord. We dedicate these gifts to you in
gratitude and in hope for the day where all will be fed, all will
be sheltered, and all will be safe. In Jesus' name, 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.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elders, Class of 2027 –

Debbie Boyd, Ruth Newman, Susan Skiba, Barbara Yonker

Deacons, Class of 2027 –

Julie Johnson, Susan Kyser, Wanda Navoyosky, Brenda Swinhart

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

*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

Glad Tidings

G.F. McKay

*Please stand if you are able.

Some of today's liturgy came from or was inspired
from the *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine.

Questions for thought:

1. When have you seen God's grace at work in your life?
2. How can you extend that same grace to others?
3. What, in your life, do you need to surrender to God to allow God to work through it?

Star Cards are in a basket at the west entrance if you missed getting a random card last Sunday.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Barb Yonker

Light-Bearer: Tyson Jackson

Open Dates for Bulletins – January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 16, 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower and/or bulletin order and wish to continue in 2025.

Flowers have been given by Paul and Barb Fennema in honor of John Fennema’s birthday; by Susan Kyser in memory of her mother, Miriam Bricker; and by Ardeth Conkle in memory of her sister, Erma Eaton, and in honor of her brother, John Ivan Eaton.

Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower and/or bulletin order and wish to continue in 2025. Open Dates for Flowers are January 19, 26, February 23, March 9, 16, 23, 30. Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

Café Justo’s great Organic Coffee we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour is for sale today in Fellowship Hall! Cost is \$12.00 for a 1-pound bag of regular, decaf, or whole bean coffee. Cooperative members own the entire business from the growing through the roasting, and the coffee is famous for its smooth taste and low acidity. It is Organic certified and has a Fair Trade Plus certification.

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

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

Officer Training will be held today after worship in the Library. A light lunch will be provided.

Investment Committee – Tuesday, January 7

8:30 a.m. *via Zoom*

Daytimers – Wednesday, January 8

Come join us at 12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. The program will be “Free Three” by Amy Bordonaro, the executive director of ‘Free Three’. She will talk about Anti Trafficking for Columbiana County.

Committee Night – Thursday, January 9

6:00 Christian Education

6:00 Mission I and S (Parlor)

7:00 Devotions (Sanctuary)

7:15 Property and Maintenance

7:15 Worship, Music, and the Arts (Parlor)

Annual Reports for 2024 are due in the Church Office by this Friday, January 10, 2025. Reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 26 before the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting on February 2.

Worship Service will not be broadcasted next Sunday, January 12.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2025 is \$33.00 per Active Member. Per Capita is an assessment paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery for each member of the congregation. 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.

From the Environmental Team:

For those of you who still enjoy celebrating Christmas with a live tree, here is information about 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.

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, January 5

Officer Training after worship in Library (light lunch provided)

Monday, January 6

6:30 Troops 3 and 2003G (Basement/209)

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Tuesday, January 7

8:30 am Investment Committee *via Zoom*

1:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 8

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 Daytimers (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 9

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (Library)

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

7:00 Devotions (Sanctuary)

7:15 Property & Maintenance / Worship, Music, Arts (Parlor)

Friday, January 10

Annual Reports for 2024 due in Church Office

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

pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org

Clerk of Session.....Barbara Loudon, bloudon@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