

First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

December 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

## Second 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.fpcsalem.org](http://www.fpcsalem.org).

*"We are centered in Christ and powered by love."*

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Wilbur Held  
*Meditation on Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* Gilbert M. Martin

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

### PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Wilbur Held

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! For he commanded and all was created.

**Praise him, sun and moon and shining stars.**

Praise him, ocean deeps and stormy winds.

**Praise him, mountains and forests, animals of every kind.**

Praise him, young men and women alike, old and young  
together.

**Praise the Lord! His glory is above earth and heaven.**

### HYMN – *Grant Us Peace*

*The Haviland Choir*

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE *The Jackson Family*  
*Tyler, Tricia, Tyson, Tegan*

### \*HYMN 13

*Prepare the Way*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

As we join with all creation in singing God's praise, let us also  
come before God with humility willing to confess our sins,  
trusting that God will hear us and forgive us.

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

**When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God,  
our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and  
righteousness,  
but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values  
of the world,  
that your values take second place.  
Forgive us, O God,  
and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit,  
source of power and life.  
Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds  
of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you.  
May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you,  
as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once  
more,  
in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Blessed be the Lord our God, who does wondrous things.  
The most wondrous of all being God's entry into our world in  
Jesus Christ, "not to condemn the world, but that the world  
might be saved through him".  
**Thanks be to God!  
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

**Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest that can come from our daily lives and the business of this season. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale any turmoil within. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*The Haviland Choir*

*Comfort Ye, My People*

*John Carter*

Beckenhorst Press, Inc., CCL#2595933

Comfort ye, comfort ye, comfort ye my people.  
Comfort ye my people.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,  
that her warfare is accomplished,  
that her warfare is accomplished;  
that her iniquity is pardoned.

Comfort ye; comfort ye;  
The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness,  
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Comfort, comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and cry unto her  
that her warfare is accomplished,  
that her warfare is accomplished;  
that her iniquity is pardoned.  
Comfort ye, comfort ye, Comfort ye my people.

#### THE SECOND READING

*Romans 8:19-23*

<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

This is the Word of the LORD!  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*“The Earth Resounds”*

*Rev. Annie Parker*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**God keeps promises and gives us hope.**

**In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God kept promises.**

**All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.**

**But the work of God in Christ is not over.**

**God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.**

**The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us  
when lesser hopes fail us.**

**In Christ, God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty  
of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment  
beyond death.**

**This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.**

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Christmas Joy Offering*

*Adam Seefeldt*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*arr. Lloyd Larson*

*Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are at Sanctuary entrances.*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you  
to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and  
our world. On every street corner, beside rivers, lakes, oceans,  
at the top of your tallest mountains, and dwelling below the  
cliffs, your people are in need. Take these gifts to strengthen  
our church and bring relief to your beloved children. 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 267**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

**\*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**

*In Excelsis Deo*

*Lee Ellis*

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*\*Some of the liturgy and the sermon series from today’s worship  
came from or was inspired by liturgy written for Deep Well  
Worship.*

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

**Liturgist:** Geoff Goll

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Flowers** have been given in Memory of Gail and Lois Herron by the Family.

**2026 Calendars** compliments of Stark Memorial Funeral Home are available today at Sanctuary entrances.

**Pledge Cards** are available at Sanctuary entrances and can be placed in the offering plates.

**Blessings Jars benefit Salem Community Pantry**

Please take a jar home with you (at Sanctuary entrances) and drop your pocket change in the jar to show gratitude for your many blessings. Return the jars to church on December 21 or 24.

**Experiencing Christmas Bible Study on Tuesdays at 5 p.m.**

December 9, 16, and 23 in the Library led by Pastor Annie.

**Advent Music Program – Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 service.** This year's Cantata will feature our Haviland Choir, guest musicians and vocalists presenting “FANTASIA NOEL.” Invite your friends and family to come share your pew for this event. This special Sunday service is a perfect reason to call an FPC member you haven't seen in a while and invite them to come and enjoy.

**Bells, Carols, and Cookies – Sunday, December 21 at 6:00**

Everyone is encouraged to submit titles of Christmas carols that you would like to have included in the program, not necessarily restricted to songs in the hymnal. Papers will be available at the entrances to the Sanctuary to write your requests, which can be put in Cheryl's mailbox or left in the Blessings jars baskets. Participants in the program are also needed. Our bell choir will perform and several other individuals are planning to share Christmas tunes with performances on piano, instruments, and voice. Perhaps you or a friend or family member have a Christmas song, poem or story to share. Beginners and musicians of all ages are welcome and encouraged to be included. Just let us know who is participating and the title of their piece so that programs can be created. Deadline for inclusion in the program is Wednesday, December 17. Everyone is asked to bring cookies to share afterward. Come and enjoy a relaxing, fun evening.

**CHURCH ORGANIST** – The Personnel Committee is accepting applications for Church Organist. It has been decided to prioritize this position to a member of our congregation first and then extend the

request outside if necessary. Applications should include a letter of intent, a resume to include organ experience, and three contacts who can give reference to the applicant's experience on the organ. Applications are due by December 14, 2025, addressed to the Personnel Committee, and delivered to the Church Office.

**Non-Perishable Food Drive** – Scout Troop 2003G of this church is having a food drive through December 14 to benefit Salem Community Pantry and Harvesting for Hope serving Beloit and Sebring. Items should be placed in marked boxes on the stage.

**The First Presbyterian Preschool** has been a cherished part of the First Presbyterian Church for over fifty years. Many church members and area residents have been students of our early childhood education program and have fond memories of their year or years they spent enjoying the Christian centered activities the staff have provided. The current staff are currently involving the congregation in some of the children's activities to demonstrate the type of Christian concepts the students are learning.

Our preschool is funded entirely by student tuition, preschool board fundraising, and donations by caring individuals who understand the need for a Christian based learning center for area young people in our community. Our preschool board truly appreciates those within our church who have seen this need and continue to provide monetary support for our preschool to continue in the years ahead. Charitable end of the year income tax contributions can be a way to assist the First Presbyterian Preschool to continue its excellent work in providing a faith-based preschool education for our young people. If you are looking for a charity to support at the end of the calendar year, please consider the preschool. A notation on your check (Preschool Education Fund) would direct the donation to the designated account. Thank you for your support!

### Vision Statement

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

### Sunday, December 7

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

### Monday, December 8

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

### Tuesday, December 9

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

**5:00 Experiencing Christmas Bible Study** (Library)

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

### Wednesday, December 10

6:15 Carillon Ringers (S)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

### Thursday, December 11

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

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

### Sunday, December 14

9:00 Sunday School for Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade / Adults (Library)

Choir Reception before and after Worship (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship – *Advent Music Program*

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

### Monday, December 15

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

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

[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)

Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs ..... Cheryl McDevitt, [chermcd@aol.com](mailto:chermcd@aol.com)

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