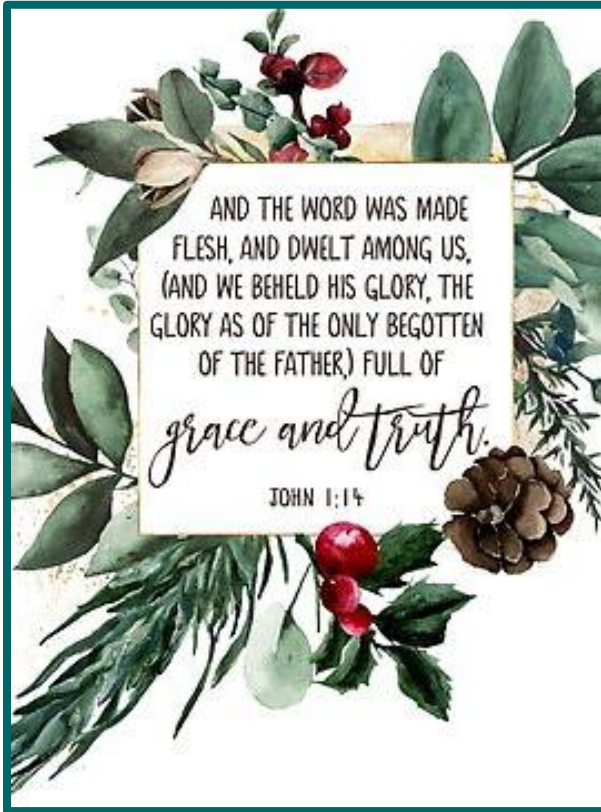


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

January 4, 2026

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](https://www.youtube.com/FPCSALEM) / FPCSALEM; and
our website, www.fpcsaalem.org.

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
The Birthday of a King*

*Arr. Wilbur Held
W.H. Neidlinger*

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

PRELUDE

Star of the East

Amanda Kennedy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day, we remember the gift of God's Word,

**Who gathers us together from the farthest parts of the world
to worship in joy and hope.**

On this day, we remember the simple graces of the bread and
the cup,

Those plain gifts shaped by God's love into nourishing hope.

On this day, we remember the gifts of water and oil,

**Cleansing us in the baptismal pools, anointing us as God's
children.**

*HYMN 30

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Have we really been to Bethlehem? Have we worshiped at the
manger? Have we changed, for the better? Or have we simply
gone back to being the people we were before the joy, the
peace, the gifts of Christmas? Let us confess how we have not
lived as those who have seen the Baby, as we pray together,
saying,**

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

God of Christmas:

**we still are playing with our new toys,
the creche figures have not been put away;
we have the stacks of Christmas cards,
but we memorize the words sin has taught us;
we set limits on who we will love,
we make promises we cannot keep,
we fail to see the pain and hurt we cause.**

God of the angels and shepherds, forgive us.

**Your Word has come to reshape our lives;
your Light has come to show us the way home;
your Son has come to make us your family.**

**Have mercy and make us new people. This we pray
in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Like the Baby of Bethlehem, we are born anew. God's
forgiveness cradles us; God's love is poured out on us.

**What a marvelous gift - forgiveness! Filled with hope and
new life, we can sing God's praises forever.
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

Light of the world,
You became flesh and dwelled among us.
As we read your story, make it our story.

Fill us with the life and light of Christ.
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

One King

The Haviland Choir

Robert Sterling

Word Music, CCL#2595933

King of earth on a course unknown, bearing gifts from afar,
hoping, praying, following yonder star.
Silhouette of a caravan painted against the sky;
wise men searching for the holy Child.

One king held the frankincense, one king held the myrrh.
One king held the purest gold,
one King held the hope of the world.

A star hangs over Bethlehem, a journey ends in the night.
Three kings trembling, behold the glorious sight.
Heaven's treasure, Emmanuel, drawing men to bow down,
Tiny Baby, born to wear a crown.

One king held the frankincense, one king held the myrrh.
One king held the purest gold,
one King held the hope of the world.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tiny Baby, O tiny Baby, born to wear a crown.

One king held the frankincense, one king held the myrrh.
One king held the purest gold,
one King held the hope of the world.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:10-19

¹⁰ He 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.

¹⁴ And 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.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

"The Good Father"

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 2236 (*Sing the Faith*)

Gather Us In

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison; The Apostles' Creed*)

**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.**

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS

Sentences of Scripture (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27)

There are varieties of gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way,

but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Presentation

Ruling Elders Fred Denton, Bill Penfold, and Mark Smith are presented for installation to active service on the Session.

Jan Cox is being presented for ordination to the office of Deacon. She and Deacons Brenda Bradley, Lu Ann Cole, Barb Fennema, Ellen Maticcik, and Sandra Quinn are presented for installation to active service on the Board of Deacons.

Constitutional Questions

Questions of the Congregation:

Do we, the members of the church, accept these persons as deacons and elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Prayer of Ordination and Laying on of Hands

The members of Session are invited to come forward to participate in the act of ordination.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Welcome

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Love Came Down at Christmas

Robert W. Thygerson

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Blessed are we, O God, for you came to be with us, to walk with us, and to share our lives. As we offer our gifts to you, may we be willing to share in the lives of those around us, to share in their journeys, and to be your presence and spirit in their lives. 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 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*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

The Spacious Firmament on High

Joseph Haydn

*Please stand if you are able.

**Some of today's liturgy came from or was inspired
by the Lectionary Liturgy Website.*

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Barbara Yonker

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given by Tom Mercer in memory of his wife, Marilyn. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing bulletin order and wish to continue in 2026. *Open Dates for Bulletins* – January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 15, 22, 29.

Flowers have been given by Paul and Barb Fennema in honor of John Fennema's Birthday; and anonymously to the Glory of God. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower order and wish to continue in 2026. *Open Dates for Flowers* are January 18 (2 vases), 25 (2 vases), February 15 (1 vase), 22 (2 vases), March 8 (2 vases), 15 (2 vases), 22 (2 vases). 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.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2026 is \$35.00 per Active Member. Per Capita is an assessment paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery for each member of the congregation.

Daytimers – Wednesday, January 7

Come join us at 12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. The program will be Linda Kingsley and her service dog, Summer.

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, January 4

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, January 5

6:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, January 6

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

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

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

Wednesday, January 7

12:00 Daytimers (FH) – *Linda Kingsley and her Service Dog, Summer*

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, January 8

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (Library)

6:00 Christian Education (L) and **Mission I and S** (P)

7:00 Property (L) and **Worship, Music, Arts** (P)

Sunday, January 11

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 Service of Worship – *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

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

pastorannie@fpcsalem.org

Clerk of Session..... Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com

Director of Music..... John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, cheracd@aol.com

Interim Organist Jan Cox, jansalem1@yahoo.com

Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

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Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net