

First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

February 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



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

\*Please stand if you are able.

### PRELUDE

*Adoro te devote*

*Arr. David Johnson*

*Kum Bah Yah*

*Arr. Roger Wilson*

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

### PRELUDE

*It is Well with My Soul*

*Arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are we

**when our treasures cannot be quantified.**

Happy are we

**when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.**

Happy are we

**when our pain is held in the balm of love.**

Happy are we

**when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.**

### \*HYMN 420

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Through Christ we are bold to name our sin as we trust God to grant us forgiveness and reconciliation.

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

**Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while**

ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling,  
God came to dwell with us  
through the body and being of God's Son, Jesus Christ.  
Christ came to be with us, amongst us, and for us.  
Hear the good news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! 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)**

**Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today – the voice of truth and grace. Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING**

*Malachi 3:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a

refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.<sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM**

*Take the World, but Give Me Jesus*

*The Haviland Choir*

*Larry Shackley*

Lorenz Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

Take the world, but give me Jesus;  
all its joys are but a name;  
but His love abides forever,  
through eternal years the same.  
O the height and depth of mercy!  
O the length and breadth of love!  
O the fullness of redemption,  
pledge of endless life above, pledge of endless life above.

Take the world, but give me Jesus;  
sweetest comfort of my soul.  
With my Savior watching o'er me,  
I can sing though billows roll.  
O the height and depth of mercy!  
O the length and breadth of love!  
O the fullness of redemption,  
pledge of endless life above, pledge of endless life above.

Take the world, but give me Jesus;  
Let me view His constant smile;  
then throughout my pilgrim journey  
light will cheer me all the while.  
Take the world, but give me Jesus;  
in His cross my trust shall be,

till with clearer, brighter vision  
face to face my Lord I see.  
O the height and depth of mercy!  
O the length and breadth of love!  
O the fullness of redemption,  
pledge of endless life above!  
Take the world, but give me Jesus.

#### THE GOSPEL READING

*Luke 2:22-40*

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to

the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*“Going Where We Belong”*

*Rev. Annie Parker*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 374

*Lord, Make Us Servants of Your People*

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**God created all the worlds that are  
and upholds and rules everything.**

**We affirm that the universe exists  
by the power of God's Word and Spirit.**

**God has chosen to give it reality out of the love  
we have come to know in Christ.**

**We acknowledge God's care and control  
in the regularity of the universe as well as  
in apparently random happenings.**

**There is no event from which God is absent  
and God's ultimate purpose in all events  
is just and loving.**

**The Creator works in all things toward the new creation  
that is promised in Christ.**

*(from “A Declaration of Faith,” 1977)*

## CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*This is My Father's World*

*Arr. John Leavitt*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Wise and merciful God,  
thank you for choosing us to be your people.  
Teach us to yearn for what is right  
and to do what you want us to do.  
Use us and our possessions  
for your wise and good purposes.  
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 369

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; 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**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*J. Wayne Kerr*

**We Welcome** Nancy Howenstine as our organist this morning.

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

**Liturgist:** Tegan Jackson

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins** have been given anonymously for the Blessings of God.  
Please call the Church Office if you have a standing bulletin and/or flower order and wish to continue in 2026.

**Flowers** have been given by Lois Dunn in memory of late husband Wendell's Birthday, and by Paul and Barbara Fennema in honor of Sarah Fennema's birthday and grandsons Braydon and Damian.  
Please call the Church Office if you have a standing bulletin and/or flower order and wish to continue in 2026.

**Soup to Go Today – Chili**

Quart containers of Chili will be available for \$8.00 for 1 or \$15.00 for 2 in the Kitchen. If at all possible, please consider adding a small donation when you purchase your soup. Please return jars and lids.

**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 DECAF (more coffee has been ordered). 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.

## **Daytimers – Wednesday, February 4**

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring covered dish to share.

We will be making Valentines to distribute to church members.

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be convened next Sunday, February 8 immediately after morning worship for the purposes of receiving reports and electing officers. 2025 Annual Reports are available today at Sanctuary entrances.

**2026 Church Membership Directory** (no pictures) will be available soon. To enhance communications, please let the Church Office know if you no longer have a landline phone and are using a cell phone number, 330-337-9555, or send an e-mail to [phyllis@fpcalex.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcalex.org).

**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. 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 2026 for First Presbyterian Church of Salem is based upon reported active membership of 186 at the end of the year 2024.

### Vision Statement

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

Sunday, February 1

**Soup to Go – Chili - \$8.00 for 1 and \$15.00 for 2**

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, February 2

**1:00 Board of Deacons (Library) – Note New Time**

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, February 3

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

5:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, February 4

**12:00 Daytimers (Fellowship Hall) – Making Valentines**

6:00 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, February 5

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

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

**7:00 Property & Main. (Library) and Worship, Music, Arts (Parlor)**

Sunday, February 8

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) – *Troop 2003G Bake Sale*

10:00 Service of Worship

**Annual Congregational Meeting** after Worship

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

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

[pastorannie@fpcalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcalem.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)

Organist ..... Jan Cox, [Jansalem1@yahoo.com](mailto:Jansalem1@yahoo.com)

Audio/Video ..... Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

Administrative Secretary ..... Phyllis Garlock, [phyllis@fpcalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcalem.org)

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