

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

February 15, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Transfiguration of the Lord



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

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE

Hymnus

Alexander von Fielitz

Meditation

Felix Mendelssohn

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

PRELUDE

O Lord Most Holy

Franz Abt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to be here in this sacred space,

in the shelter of God's love and hope.

It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with
new friends,

joining with all of God's beloved, siblings in Jesus.

It is good to be here, where we can hear God's voice,

calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit's presence.

*HYMN 469

Morning Has Broken

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The prophet Amos asked those who prayed for God to come near saying, "Why do you want the day of the Lord? ... Is not the day of the Lord darkness not light?" His words are a warning reminding us that too often we pray for God's judgement on the sins of others and forget the harm that we have done. He calls all of us to repentance and transformation so that justice can roll

down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Let us pray...

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

Sheltering God, we confess that our judgement often becomes clouded by our own willfulness: We speak when we should listen and our words harm those around us. We act out of fear instead of faith and drive a wedge between us and our neighbors. We place our trust in human ideologies and leaders instead of the Son of Man who came to seek and save the lost. Destroy, O God, the wisdom of this world! Drown out the voices of gossip, false prophets, and our own selfish desire and replace it with the foolishness of the cross. Make your face shine upon us so that we can see our faults and be renewed by your mercy and love. Reform us so that we all might be presented faultless on the day of Christ. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

On mountaintops and in valleys, God is with us. In moments when our lives are shrouded and when we walk in the light of the Lord, God is with us. You are never nearer nor farther from God than you are right now for God is with us, calling us beloved, showing us a glimpse of the grace that is to come, and transfiguring us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***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*)

Righteous God who spoke words of wisdom to Moses upon the mountain, speak to us today. O Holy Spirit who inspired Elijah and the prophets to speak words of justice and of mercy, speak through us today. Word that took on flesh to live among us, be known among us today. Bless this reading of the written word that it may be for us the Living Word transforming us until we love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind and our neighbors as we love ourselves. Amen.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir

Sinner Saved by Grace

W. Gaither, G. Gaither, M. Humphries

Arr. Mary McDonald

Meena Weingart, Soloist
Lorenz Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

If you could see what I once was, you could go with me,
back to where I started from, then I know you would see
a miracle of love that took me in its sweet embrace,
and made me what I am today: a sinner saved by grace.
I'm just a sinner saved by grace.

When I stood condemned to death, He took my place.
Now I live and breathe in freedom
with each breath of life I take.
Loved and forgiven, back with the living,
I'm just a sinner saved by grace.

How could I boast of anything I've ever seen or done?
How could I dare to claim as mine the victories God has won?
Where would I be had God not brought me
gently to this place?
I'm here to say I'm nothing but a sinner saved by grace.
I'm just a sinner saved by grace.

When I stood condemned to death, He took my place.
Now I live and breathe in freedom
with each breath of life I take
Loved and forgiven, back with the living,
I'm just a sinner saved by grace.
I'm just a sinner saved by grace. God's grace!

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses

spoke with them.³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face,³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Lifting the Veil"

Rev. Barry Chance

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 73

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

*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.**

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Arr. Michael Haskell

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*)

Giver of all good gifts, we confess that we often forget that all that we have comes from you. In that confusion we grasp and wrangle for more and our possessions begin to possess us. In gratitude for your grace, we let go of these gifts so that they cannot control us anymore. Use them in ways we cannot imagine and would not dare to ask! Use them to open eyes, release captives, bind-up broken hearts, and truly make it on earth as it is in heaven! 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...

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again...

Until that day, we lift our prayer to you,
using the words recited by all generations, saying:

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 507

I Come with Joy

*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

If Ever I Cease to Love

George Leybourne

We welcome Rev. Barry Chance to our pulpit today. Rev. Chance is the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Eastminster Presbytery.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Kara Craig

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given by Sam and Julie Johnson in memory of loved ones.

Flowers have been given by Margaret Winch for the gift of Meriel Winch, and anonymously with love and gratitude to our awesome God and Savior, Jesus.

The Church Office will be closed for the Presidents' Day Holiday on Monday, February 16.

Ash Wednesday – February 18

Partnering with the FPC in Columbiana, a service will be held at Noon followed by a luncheon in Columbiana, and a service will be held at FPC Salem at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Environmental Team – Sunday, February 22

Meeting in the Library immediately following morning Worship

Lent Study starting Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 p.m.

The class will continue Tuesdays through March 31 in the Library. Led by Pastor Annie, discussion will be on the book "An Unexpected Lent".

Vision Statement

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

Monday, February 16

Church Office Closed for Holiday

Tuesday, February 17

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Ash Wednesday, February 18

12:00 Service at FPC Columbiana followed by Lunch

6:30 Service at FPC Salem (Sanctuary)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, February 19

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Regular Session Meeting (Library/Hybrid)

Sunday, February 22

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 Service of Worship – *Western Reserve Brass*

Environmental Team meeting after Worship (Library)

1:00-4:00 Grandson Birthday Party (Fellowship Hall)

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, February 23

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

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