

First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

March 8, 2026

10:30 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent



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](http://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

*Prelude and Fugue in G Minor*  
*Andante Grazioso*  
*It Is Well with My Soul*

*Bravura Woodwind Quintet*  
*J.S. Bach/Rechtman*  
*August Klughardt*  
*Phillip Bliss/Lanier*

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

PRELUDE

*The Old Rugged Cross*

*Bravura Woodwind Quintet*  
*Richard Cerchia*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

In God's hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are God's also.

**The sea is the Lord's, for God made it, and the dry land,  
which God's hands have formed.**

O come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's  
pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.**

\*HYMN 313

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

As we wander through the wilderness of Lent, we come closer and closer to confronting human sin, both our own sin and our collective sin. It is with honesty about how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession allows us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who hears us is the God who already loves us. Therefore, we need not fear confession, but draw near to the love of God, in honesty and candor, first together, and then in silence...

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

**God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Who is to condemn?

**It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.**

Believe the promise of the gospel:

**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 (*Unison*)

**May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.**

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 17:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

This is the Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

*The Rose of Calvary*

*The Haviland Choir*

*Joseph M. Martin*

Shawnee Press, Inc., CCL#2595933

I love the Rose of Calvary:

God's gift of hope, God's gift of grace.

In love He clings to sorrow's tree,

and softly weeps at its embrace,  
and softly weeps at its embrace.

I love the Rose of Calvary.  
His petals crushed by hate and scorn,  
still His fragrance fills the night  
and, for our sin, He bears the thorn,  
for our sin He bears the thorn.

Calvary's Rose, Calvary's Rose,  
in His life God's mercy flows.  
By his death our garden grows;  
O the love of Calvary's Rose.

Come to the hill where Jesus died.  
Come rest beneath the rugged tree,  
for in its shadow grows a flower:  
the blessed Rose of Calvary,  
the blessed Rose of Calvary.  
I love the Rose of Calvary, of Calvary.

#### THE GOSPEL READING

*John 4:5-42*

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus

said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to

complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*"Well, Actually..."*

*Rev. Annie Parker*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 171

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

\*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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Habitat for Humanity Mahoning Valley*

*Mickey Buck*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*When Jesus Wept*

*William Billings*

*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*)

**Holy God, from abundance upon abundance, you have said  
that we may freely take and freely share. As we return to you  
what is already your own, we ask that you would bless these  
gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see  
your reign unfolding before us, through Christ our Lord. 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.**

#### BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

*The bread and the cup will be received by coming forward and given a piece of bread, taking the cup, and returning the cup to a tray. If you cannot come forward, you will be served in the pew.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Unison*)

**God of manna and mustard seeds,  
we came to this Table hungry  
and we leave feeling full—  
full of hope,  
full of promise,  
full of what could be.**

**For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table,  
but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be:  
in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.  
Is there anything holier than that?  
So thank you for nourishing our curiosity  
alongside our spirit and our conviction.**

**May we always seek you the way you seek after us.  
With grateful hearts we pray, amen.**

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*HYMN 280

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 2162, Sing the Faith, Grace Alone*)

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,  
every difference we will make is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,  
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies,  
strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone;  
we will go forth in grace alone.

*Please remain standing as the Light of Christ  
is carried into the world.*

POSTLUDE

*Living for Jesus*

*Bravura Woodwind Quintet  
Chisholm & Lowden/Everson*

**Bravura Woodwind Quintet** – Rebecca Bickel (Oboe),  
Christine Carucci (Bassoon), Albert Colella (Clarinet),  
Monica Meffan (Flute), James Scanga (Horn)

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

**Liturgist:** Noelle Lathom

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins** have been given by The Melvin and Virginia Wilms Family in memory of Dorothy and Sue Wilms.

**Flowers** have been given by Scott and Deb Boyd in memory of the loved ones we lost in 2025.

**Order Easter Plants Today in Fellowship Hall**

Daffodils, Lilies, and Tulips are \$11.00 each. Tulip color choices are Orange, Purple, and Red. Orders taken through Sunday, March 15.

**Soup Lunch – Sunday, March 15**

Bring your favorite soup to share. Sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee.

Monday, March 8

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, March 9

**6:00 Congregational Care Committee** (Library)

6:30 2003 Family Troop (Basement)

Tuesday, March 10

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

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

Thursday, March 12

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

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

Friday, March 13

Preschool St. Patrick’s Event in Evening

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

[pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsaalem.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  
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Vision Statement

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