

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

April 26, 2026

10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Easter



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.

“We are centered in Christ and powered by love.”

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (Organ)
March (Brass and Timpani)*

*Arr. Marianne Kim
Henry Purcell*

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

PRELUDE

Intrada (Brass and Timpani)

Henry Purcell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold! The Savior of the world is risen!

Fling wide the portals of your hearts:

Let us feel the presence of God's grace and love!

O Holy spirit, lead us on in worship;

Call us each by name, that we may give God glory!

*HYMN 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me." In confession, we trust God to know us fully: the good and the bad, the faithful and the sinful. But we also know God's faithfulness, God's mercy, and God's power to redeem us and lead us into new life. Trusting in this promise, let us confess our sins together.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like ornery sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our plans and our pride. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your Beloved Community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies, and the glory of abiding with you forevermore. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
while we were yet sinners:

Christ came to us; Christ died for us;

And Christ rose from the dead so that the gates of hell and heaven may be thrown open wide and all of creation renewed. So believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new, abundant life.

*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Trumpet Tune (Brass and Timpani)

Henry Purcell

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

O God, give us the listening ear. Give us the listening ear that will not shrink from a word that corrects and admonishes; a

word that challenges us to deeper consecration and higher resolve; a word that lays bare the needs that make our days uneasy; a word that seizes upon everything decent in our nature and channels it into paths of healing in the lives of others. Give us, O Lord, the listening ear. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir, Brass and Timpani

In Christ Alone

Lloyd Larson

Hope Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,

scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died,
the love of God was magnified;
for every sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from his hand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I stand.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I stand!

THE GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his

voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*“Finding Where You Belong”
Rev. Annie Parker*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We undoubtedly believe,
since it was impossible that the sorrows of death
should retain in bondage the Author of life,
that our Lord Jesus
crucified, dead, and buried,
who descended into hell,
did rise again for our justification,
and the destruction of him who was the author of death,
and brought life again to us
who were subject to death and its bondage.**

(from The Scots Confession, 1560)*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

My Lord, What a Morning (Organ)

Arr. Larry Shackley

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Shepherding God, you lead us, guard us, prepare us, and preserve us. We have responded by giving back to you what has come from your hand. Bless these gifts, and multiply them in the life of your church, so that the gates of salvation may be flung wide, and all your Beloved Community may know the love and the peace that is ours in Christ Jesus. 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 387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 118*)

The Day of Resurrection

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

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

POSTLUDE
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Organ, Brass and Timpani
J.S. Bach

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Western Reserve Brass

Terry Gale (Trumpet), John Veneskey (Trumpet)
Rob Cole (Horn), Jonathan Willis (Trombone)
Benjamin Ammon (Tuba), Robert Barnett (Percussion)

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Mickey Buck

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously with thanks to the Congregational Care committee members and all their hard work doing special “things” for our church family. Bulletin Donors needed for May 10, 17, June 14, 21, July 12, 19, and 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Cost is \$15 a Sunday.

Flowers have been given by Wanda Navoyosky in honor of Steve's birthday, and anonymously honoring all musicians who grace our services with their time and talents. Flower Donors needed for May 10 (1 vase), June 14 (1 vase), July 12 (1 vase), July 19 (1 vase), July 26 (1 vase). Cost is \$10 a vase.

Soup to Go Today – Quart containers of Vegetable Beef Soup are available today 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.

Daytimers – Wednesday, May 6 at Noon

Come join us for a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be James Stitt, Chief Executive Officer at the Family Recovery Center in Lisbon.

Limited Deacon Scholarship Funds are available for students from our church who are enrolled in College or University and who have not previously received Deacon assistance. Requests should be sent to the Church Office stating the name of the college or university attending, and course of study by June 30.

Compassion Has No Bounds

JEWAN RAKSHA KENDRA (LIFE SAVING CENTER)

Sita's Story: Sita lives in a remote village in Far Western Nepal. She became pregnant as a teenager, her lack of protein and health knowledge put her baby's life at risk. Now because of *Jeewan Raksha Kendra*, her family now uses better seeds to grow more potatoes, providing more food and extra income. A new greenhouse in her village ensures they have fresh vegetables all year long. Soon, her child will eat healthy meals and eggs at school to stay strong and focused in class. This will help Sita's child to learn better in school, her family to have a better income, and for her children to have a brighter future.

The Problem: In Sudurpashchim Nepal, the statistics tell a devastating story. The region currently records the highest child mortality rates in Nepal:

In Dadeldhura and Baitadi, inadequate nutrition and low crop yields lead to chronic hunger, creating barriers to children's growth and development. Geographic isolation with a nearby clinic, often being a several-hour trek, as well as low maternal literacy and adolescent pregnancy can result in illness and death of infants and young children.

How You Can Help: Your support allows them to expand their greenhouse initiatives, provide more protein-rich meals, and reach the most isolated families in Far Western Nepal. This is your opportunity to share God's love with a broken world! Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write 'Nepal' on memo line.

"By improving nutrition today, we are securing the leadership and health of the community tomorrow."

Sunday, April 26

4:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 Blue and Gold Banquet (Outside)

Monday, April 27

6:30 2003 Family Troop (Basement)

Tuesday, April 28

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, April 29

6:00 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, April 30

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, May 3

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) – *Congregational Care*

10:30 Service of Worship (S)

11:30 Environmental Team (Library)

3:00 Music Recital by Salem Music Centre (S/FH)

Monday, May 4

1:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

6:30 2003 Family Troop (Basement)

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

pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org

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

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

Dir. Handbells/Youth ChoirsCheryl McDevitt, cheracd@aol.com

OrganistJan Cox, Jansalem1@yahoo.com

Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsaalem.org

Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsaalem.org

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net

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