

First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

March 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent



Worship will be live streamed on  
**Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio,  
**You Tube:** [www.youtube.com/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

### PRELUDE

*Solid Rock*

*Lloyd Larson*

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

*Fred Bock*

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

### PRELUDE

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

*William Doane*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;  
**My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where  
there is no water.**

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your  
power and glory.

**Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will  
praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live;**

**All: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

### \*HYMN 469

*Morning Has Broken*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**The prophet Isaiah instructs us to seek and to call upon the  
Lord. The prophet pleads with the wicked to forsake their way,  
with the unrighteous to forsake their thoughts. The prophet  
invites them to return to the Lord that he may have mercy on  
them and assures them that our God will abundantly pardon.  
Let us seek God, let us call upon the Lord, knowing that we will  
be received with mercy and abundant forgiveness.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead of reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As God speaks through the prophet Isaiah God says:

**My thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways.**

Let us find peace in God's ways of mercy and grace knowing that we are forgiven.

**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*)

**God of all times and places, be with us here and now. As we read from and reflect on Scripture, may your Holy Spirit move among us that we might hear your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 55:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your

money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Gathered Chosen, God's Creation*

*Cheryl McDevitt, Flute*

Augsburg Fortress, CCL#2595933

*The Haviland Choir*

*arr. Andrew Birling*

Gathered chosen, God's creation,  
brought together by God's Son,  
friend and neighbor, known and stranger,  
in this service all are one.

One in voice, one in spirit,  
one with faithful everywhere,  
all united by a promise,  
held in God's unending care.

Care that sees beyond our failings,  
care that reaches great and small,

care that changed a cross of torture  
into hope and life for all.

All are welcome at Christ's table,  
where the host is also guest.  
In the sharing of the banquet,  
those who bless are also blessed.

Blessed and strengthened for the journey,  
all depart then from this place.  
Scattered seed, God's new creation,  
in the world to share God's grace.

THE SECOND READING

*Luke 13:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

This is the Gospel of the LORD!  
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 298

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

*(from "A Brief Statement of Faith," 1991)*

MINUTES FOR MISSION

*Book Study*  
*Mickey Buck*

*Carol Ricciardi*  
*One Great Hour of Sharing*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

*Dale Wood*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Living Christ, we offer these humble gifts as tokens of our thanks, and as signs of our hope in the world you are creating. In your hands and with our hands may these gifts be transformed: into bread for the hungry, comfort for the weak, shelter for the lost and peace for the world. 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 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

*Praise Him, Sing to the Lord*

*Robert Lau*

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Questions for thought:**

1. How can you bear fruit to show God's love in your life?
2. When have you had to forgive again and again?
3. When have you been forgiven again and again?

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

**Liturgist:** Barb Yonker

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins:** *Open Dates for Bulletins* – May 11, 18, June 8, 15, 22.

**Chancel Flowers** have been given Lois Dunn in memory of father Louis Weirick's birthday; and given anonymously to show appreciation for all our officers and committee members who give of their time and talents to make our church as wonderful as it is.

**Soup to Go** – There are a few jars of Vegetable Beef Soup for sale in the kitchen. Please return jars and lids.

**Easter Plant Orders** will be taken today and next Sunday in Fellowship Hall for Daffodils and Red and Purple Tulips, \$6.00 each and Lilies, \$8.00 each. You can also order by calling the Church Office, 330-337-9555, or e-mail [phyllis@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsaalem.org).

### **Soup and Dessert Luncheon Today**

Come share your favorite recipe of soup in Fellowship Hall. Event sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee.

### **Daytimers – April 2**

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. Program – *Beki Pridemore*, the Administrator for Mobile Meals, will talk about the 50 years of service to the Salem Community.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** – Sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world provides relief from natural disasters (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), food for the hungry (Presbyterian Hunger Program), and support for the poor and oppressed (Self-Development of People). Please give what you can. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. *OGHS Envelopes are in the Pew Racks and at Sanctuary entrances.*

### **Interested in Overseeing Garage Sale????**

Please contact Bill Penfold, 330-831-2673 or [exmatch@neo.rr.com](mailto:exmatch@neo.rr.com).



**Support PDA's Response to California Wildfires** – PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the **"GAP" – Give, Act and Pray**. God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble. Please make checks payable to the church and mark 'California Wildfires' in the memo line.

**Per Capita Apportionment for 2025 is \$33.00 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.

**Troop 3** is seeking adult leaders and young persons ages 11-18. Qualifications are adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, a love of adventure, learning, and teamwork. Perks are a world-class team, adventure, and learning amazing things. For more information, see Mark Smith or Frank Lewis.

**Let's Gather** – Join us to celebrate George Bell Jr.'s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, April 6 at an Open House from 4-6 p.m. at the Aeonian Brewing Company, 120 West Chestnut Street in Alliance. Please RSVP by April 1 to 330-204-4663, Abby Schroeder (George's Niece).

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, March 23

Soup and Dessert Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

Monday, March 24

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 Troop 3 (Basement) / Troop 2003G (209)

Wednesday, March 26

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

**11:00 Lent Study** (Library)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (S)

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 27

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 30

9:00 Adult Sunday School Class (Library) / Youth Class

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 Service of Worship

6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

Monday, March 31

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 Troop 3 (Basement) / Troop 2003G (209)

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

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

Organist ..... Nancy McNeal

Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs ..... Cheryl McDevitt, [chermcd@aol.com](mailto:chermcd@aol.com)

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

Financial Assistant ..... Mary Banar, [office@fpcsalem.org](mailto:office@fpcsalem.org)

Custodian..... Ed Tonkinson, [mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net)