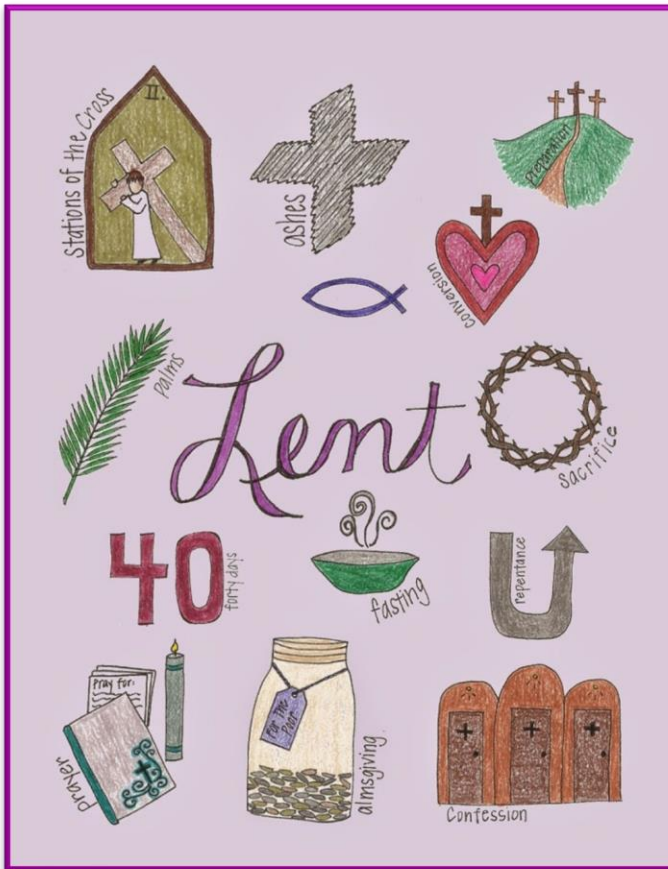


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

March 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Worship will be live streamed on
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio,
You Tube: 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

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty John Carter

The Old Rugged Cross (Bravura Woodwind Quintet)

arr. Ralph Raymond Hays

What Wondrous Love Is This (Bravura Woodwind Quintet)

arr. Spike Maiden Muller

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

PRELUDE

The Lord's Prayer (Bravura Woodwind Quintet) Malotte/Moss

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus calls to us, "Come to me all you who are weary and
burdened

And I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

For I am gentle and humble in heart,

And you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We come before God with thanksgiving in our hearts

Trusting God to fill us with love and grace.

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Happy are those who are honest with God.

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the Lord in times of distress

For the Lord is our rock and our refuge.

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

Loving God, like the prodigal son, we have recognized the error of our ways. In this season of Lent, we have reflected on our deep need for you, and we are seeking to return to you. We give thanks that you run out to meet us as a loving parent would. Help us to trust your love enough to continue returning. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God rolls away our disgrace, our sin and hurt, our brokenness and unrighteousness, until it is no more.
We are a new creation in Christ. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Andante Tranquillo

Bravura Quintet

Mendelssohn/Schmidt

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM

As the Deer

The Haviland Choir, Bravura Quintet

arr. Lloyd Larson

Hope Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.
You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

THE FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the

produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *The Haviland Choir, Bravura Woodwind Quintet*
The Weeping Tree *Joseph M. Martin*
Shawnee Press, CCL#2595933

Upon the wind there comes a call, a whisper soft and low,
a lonesome cry that fills the night and echoes through the soul.
It stirs the seekers' tender heart. It bids them come and see,
to kneel in shadows cast by grace, to touch the weeping tree.

Against the sky the timbers rise, a silhouette of grace,
a rugged throne for heaven's own, the sinner's hiding place.
Its burdened arms reach out to all; they draw the world to see
the price of love is paid in blood upon the weeping tree.

O come to the place where promise lives
and rest where hope begins,
where crimson leaves adorn the ground,
a gift from graceful winds.

O come and walk the winding path
that leads to Calvary.

Come lay your burdens down and
rest beneath the weeping tree.

Come lay your burdens down and
rest beneath the weeping tree.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable:

¹¹ “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has

devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

SERMON

“A Fresh Start”

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 2051 (*Sing the Faith*) *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

*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

On Eagles’ Wings

Marilynn Ham

Loose Cash Offering today will go to the Board of Deacons.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Lord of all, we give you thanks for your unfailing love. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, and we return it to you now with thanks and praise. Take and bless what we offer here today, that it may be used to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, liberate the oppressed, care for the suffering, and share the good news of your redeeming love with the world. In Christ's name we pray, 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...

Then in the fullness of time,
out of your great love for the world,
you sent your only Son to be one of us,
to redeem us and heal our brokenness.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.

According to his commandment:
**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

**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 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*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

Bravura Woodwind Quintet

Psalm 19 – The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Marcello/Abeling

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

1. When have you acted like each of the characters in this story?
2. Which character do you long to be, which do you wish to avoid being?
3. How do you see God's open arms in your life and the lives of others?

Bravura Woodwind Quintet

Monica Meffan – Flute

Rebecca Bickel – Oboe

Al Colella – Clarinet

Carol Childers – Bassoon

James Scanga – Horn

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Ryan Gillis

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously to the Glory of God.

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

Chancel Flowers have been given with appreciation to Jen Gillis and the Preschool Advisory Board for continuing to keep our beloved Preschool a wonderful place to learn; given anonymously to the Glory of God; and given by Paul and Barb Fennema in honor of Dan Fennema's birthday.

Easter Plant Orders will be taken today in Fellowship Hall for Daffodils and Red and Purple Tulips, \$6.00 each and Lilies, \$8.00 each.

Chime Project – An electronic system will be installed in our bell tower that not only chimes the time, but also plays over 3000 spiritual songs and is controlled remotely. The estimated remaining cost after a member donation is approximately \$3,100. Donations will be received through May 30, 2025 to fully fund the project. A chart showing donations is in the Sanctuary.

Interested in Overseeing Garage Sale????

Please contact Bill Penfold, 330-831-2673 or exmatch@neo.rr.com.

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.*

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.

90th Birthday Celebration for George Bell – Sunday, April 6

Come celebrate George Bell's 90th birthday during Coffee Hour next Sunday. Also, an Open House will be held in the afternoon 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).

Environmental Team – Sunday, April 6

Meeting in the Library following Worship

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.

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, March 30

6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

Monday, March 31

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

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

Tuesday, April 1

1:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, April 2

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Lent Study (Library)

12:00 Daytimers (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, April 3 – Committee Night

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Christian Education (L) ; **Mission I and S** (P)

7:00 Property & Maintenance (L) ; **Worship, Music, Arts** (P)

Saturday, April 5

1:00 Memorial Service for Tom Shafer (Sanctuary)

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884
pastorannie@fpcsalem.org
 Clerk of Session.....Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com
 Director of Music.....John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com
 Organist Nancy McNeal
 Dir. Handbells/Youth ChoirsCheryl McDevitt, cheracd@aol.com
 Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org
 Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org
 Custodian..... Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net