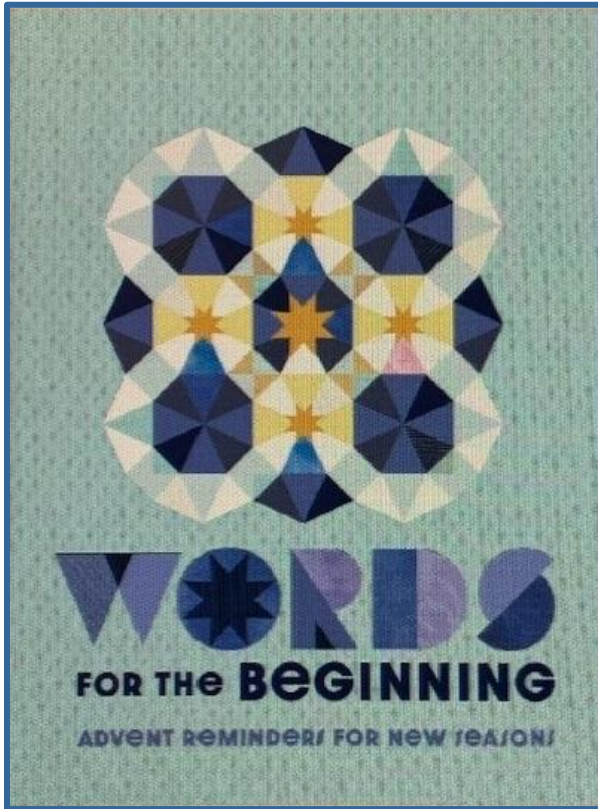


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

December 29, 2024

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas



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

Glory to God in the Highest

G. Pergolesi, arr. Diane Bish

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Robert Lau

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

PRELUDE

What Child Is This

Cheryl McDevitt, Flute

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; inheritors of God's light.

Bearers of God's light to our darkened world.

**The light of God has come into our world, and nations will
come to its brightness.**

Arise, shine; privileged ones who live in the light of Christ, bow
before God, not in shame but in awe,

All is visible in Christ's eternal light.

In us God's light never goes out.

*HYMN 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We long to follow Christ's light, but the darkness is all around us
and even in us. Instead of hiding away in the shadows, let us be
brought into the light, all of us. Trusting God to love and forgive
us. Let us pray together.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God who revealed yourself to wise men following a star,

Guide all who search and journey towards your light today.

God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

God who unveiled yourself in the gift of a son,
Show yourself to all who seek after justice and righteousness today,

God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

God who was baptized with those who declared their repentance in the Jordan river, manifest yourself to all who come with repentant hearts today,

God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

God who fed the five thousand with a handful of fish and loaves,

Satisfy our hunger with your word of truth and love,

God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

God who changed water into wine at a wedding,

Fill all who thirst with the free gift of the water of life,

God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent the Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. . . So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.” (*Galatians 4:4-5, 7*)

Friends, believe the Good News!

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*)

God of light, may your word be a lamp on our path, showing us where to go and who to be. May your word go with us and brighten the darkest of places, so we are reminded of your presence. May your word break through the darkness, like a light in the night, so that we would be reminded of your goodness and mercy even when we see none. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sheep and Shepherd Medley

Nancy McNeal

Fred Bock

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-15

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. ¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

“Something Good to Go With Us”

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(“A New Creed”, The United Church of Canada, 1968)

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Sing We a Glad Noel

Dale Wood

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are in Pew Racks.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Lord, we have received great gifts from you, too many for us to name or know. Receive now our gifts, our offerings, our time and talents, our words and kind actions. Bless them and multiply them and let them all shine your light in our 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF STAR WORDS

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 40

Joy to the World!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; "Grant us Peace."*)

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

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

POSTLUDE

Sussex Carol

Raymond Haan

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

1. What does your star word challenge you to think about or do?
2. What scripture verse does your star word remind you of?
3. How are you hoping to serve God in the new year?

Liturgist: Ray Cox

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given by Goldie Burrier in memory of loved ones.

Flowers have been given by Michael and Sandra Quinn in honor of their 51st Anniversary today.

The Church Office will close at Noon on New Year's Eve.

Contributions received in the Church Office by Noon on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, will be credited to 2024 giving. Contributions received on or after Thursday, January 2, 2025, will be credited to 2025 giving. The only exceptions are contributions mailed to the church and postmarked on or before December 31, 2024.

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in Fellowship Hall. If you do not have envelopes, but would like a box, please call the Church Office.

2025 Flower and Bulletin Donors are needed. Vases are \$10 each and Bulletins are \$15 a Sunday. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower and/or bulletin order and wish to continue in 2025.

2025 Calendars, compliments of Stark Memorial Funeral Home, are at Sanctuary entrances.

NOTICE – By action of the Session, a **Congregational Meeting** for the sole purpose of electing Church Officers will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2025 immediately following worship. Elders, Class of 2027 – Debbie Boyd, Ruth Newman, Sue Skiba, Barbara Yonker; Deacons, Class of 2027 – Julie Johnson, Susan Kyser, Wanda Navoyosky, Brenda Swinhart

Investment Committee – Tuesday, January 7

8:30 a.m. *via Zoom*

Daytimers – Wednesday, January 8

Come join us at 12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. The program will be “Free Three” by Amy Bordonaro, the executive director of ‘Free Three’. She will talk about Anti Trafficking for Columbiana County.

Committee Night – Thursday, January 10

6:00 Christian Education (Library)

6:00 Mission I and S (Parlor)

7:00 Devotions (Sanctuary)

7:15 Property and Maintenance (Library)

7:15 Worship, Music, and the Arts (Parlor)

Annual Reports for 2024 are due in the Church Office by Friday, January 10, 2025. Reports will be distributed the week before the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting.

2025 Per Capita Apportionment 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. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians discern God’s call in their lives.

From the Environmental Team:

For those of you who still enjoy celebrating Christmas with a live tree, here is information about where you can recycle your tree. There is a CCH drop off site at Memorial Park where you can take your tree from December 27 through January 31. Look for the “Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree Here” sign.

Vision Statement

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

Tuesday, December 31

9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 5

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

Congregational Meeting after Worship to Elect Officers

Planning Session for Session after Worship

Monday, January 6

6:30 Troops 3 and 2003G (Basement/209)

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Tuesday, January 7

8:30 am Investment Committee *via Zoom*

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

Wednesday, January 8

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 Daytimers (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (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

Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org

Custodian..... Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net