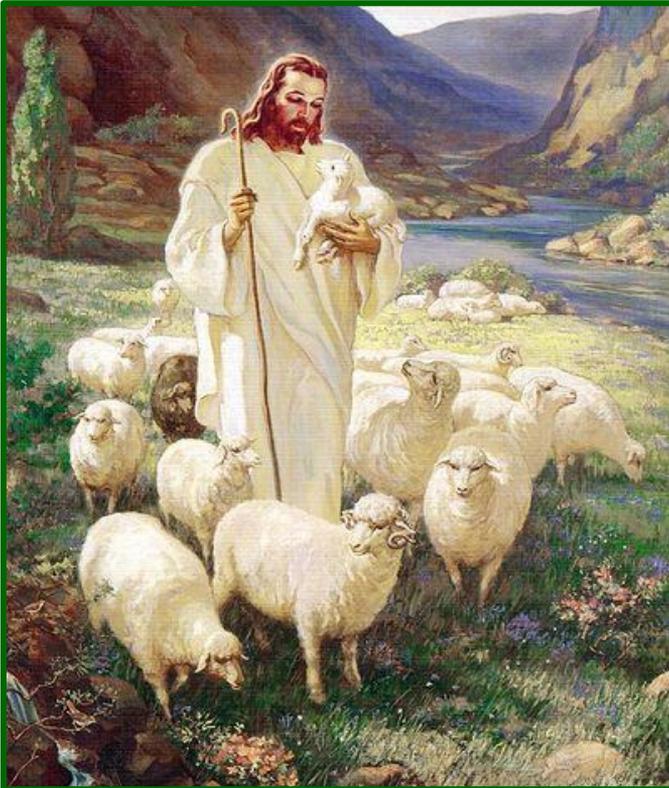


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

May 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fourth 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

PRELUDE

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship
Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

*Don Hustad
Don Hustad*

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

PRELUDE

O Faithful Heart

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is our good shepherd, providing all that we need.

We worship our Lord and our Guide.

The Lord walks with us in darkness and great fear.

We worship our Lord in the safety of God's presence.

The Lord sets a feast and invites us to sit across the table from
our enemies.

We worship our Lord as our hearts are filled with Holy Peace.

Surely mercy and goodness shall follow us all the days of our
lives.

We worship our Lord in his house now and always. Amen.

*HYMN 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sin will turn us from God and lead us far from God's path. But
confession reminds us that we are a new creation in God and the
grace that is possible.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we have followed the desires of our own hearts and neglected the needs of our neighbors. Forgive our hard and selfish ways. Turn us to Christ and Christ's righteous path. Guide our steps in mission and ministry. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are an Easter people, forgiven and freed, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. 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

Reflection on For the Beauty of the Earth

Carillon Ringers

arr. Sandra Eithun

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

God our helper, guide us into and through your Word, that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your world. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne

and worshiped God, ¹² singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Hymn of Promise

The Haviland Choir

Natalie Sleeth

Hope Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see;
something yet unknown, which God alone can see.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 10:22-30

²²At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

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

SERMON

"Safely in God's Hand"

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

**sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and
neighbor,**

**and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

The same Spirit

**who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

(from "A Brief Statement of Faith", 1983)*

MOMENT FOR CELEBRATION

Lynn Zocolo

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Robert Lau

Pentecost Offering envelopes are in Pew Racks.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Unison)*

Risen Savior, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service. May our offerings feed the hungry, clothe the poor, quench the thirsty, and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 341

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (2166, *Sing the Faith*)**

Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – never to part.

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Jason Payne

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

1. What does it mean to you to know that you know and recognize God's voice?
2. What are the other voices that try to drown out God's voice?
3. Where do you need God's peace to enter into your life today?

All ladies worshiping with us today are invited to take home and enjoy a delicious Scone in celebration of Mother's Day. A big "Thank YOU" to Gen and Judson Smith of the Brimfield Bread Oven for preparing this delicious treat! ~ Congregational Care Committee

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Lynn Zocolo

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously to the Glory of God.

Open dates for Bulletins are June 8, 15, 22, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 26, November 16, 30, December 7, 21, 24, 28. Cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.

Flowers have been given by Paul and Barb Fennema in memory of Norma Emily Jason Woods and Edna Mae Kent Fennema; and by Margaret Winch for the gift of Dallas Korff.

Open dates for Flowers are July 6 (1), July 13 (1), July 27 (1), August 10 (1), August 17 (1), August 24 (1), August 31 (1), October 12 (1), October 19 (1), October 26 (1), November 2 (1), November 16 (2), November 30 (1), December 7 (1). Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

Geraniums for Pentecost – Plants are \$6.00 for a 4” pot. Order today and next Sunday in Fellowship Hall or call/e-mail the Church Office during the week, 330-337-9555 / phyllis@fpcsaalem.org. Plants not taken by donors on Pentecost Sunday, June 8 will be planted on church grounds.

Missing Globe – On Earth Sunday, we displayed many world globes. Please check to see if you took the right one home. We are missing a rather large beige globe sitting on a square base. If you know where it is, please contact Sandy Quinn at 440-487-2000. Thank you.

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. The deadline is June 30.

Chime Project – Contributions have reached the goal of \$3,100!
Thank you for your support of this project.

Pollinator Garden – As part of the requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout, a scout must plan, develop, and lead a significant service project that benefits the community. Sydney Thompson has chosen to create a beautiful and vital pollinator garden to be housed on our church property. This pollinator garden will serve as a crucial habitat for bees, butterflies, and other essential

pollinators that play a vital role in our ecosystem and food production. To bring this important project to fruition, Sydney is seeking financial donations from our church members to support the purchase of essential materials for the pollinator garden. Please make any checks out to the church, and in the Memo Line add Pollinator's Garden so that they can go towards Sydney's garden.

Salem Community Foundation Ministerial Scholarship – In 2008, a Ministerial Scholarship Fund was established with the Salem Community Foundation to provide scholarship aid to assist persons who will spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This program is extended to those who wish to enter the fields of the Ministry, Christian Education, Youth ministry, or a closely related field. The Ministerial Scholarship application and guidelines are now available on the Salem Community Foundation's website located at www.salemcommunityfoundation.org and by calling the Foundation office at 330-332-4021. The Scholarship Committee, under established guidelines, will determine the amount of each scholarship awarded. All applications must be received by Wednesday, June 4, 2025 for scholarships to be awarded for the following academic year. Late applications will not be processed and only completed applications will be considered.

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, May 11

6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

Monday, May 12

10:00 Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

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

7:00 Congregational Care Committee (Library)

Tuesday, May 13

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, May 14

10:00 Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 Regular Session Meeting (Library and Hybrid)

Thursday, May 15

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Preschool Community Day

Sunday, May 18

9:00 Youth and Adult Church School Classes

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship – *Communion*

11:30 Environmental Team (Library)

2:00 Wilhelm Music Studio Piano Recital (S/FH)

6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

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 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