

First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

May 18, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Love one  
another,**



**as I have  
loved you.**

JOHN 13:34



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](http://www.fpcsaalem.org).

*"We are centered in Christ and powered by love."*

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  
Christ Is Alive*

*Don Hustad  
Alice Jordan*

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

### PRELUDE

*Hear My Prayer, O Lord*

*Robert Lau*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the  
heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and  
they were created.

**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds,  
which cannot be passed.**

### \*HYMN 322

*Spirit of the Living God*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Through God's promise of making us new, and knowing God's  
steadfast love is trustworthy and true, let us confess our  
shortcomings together, seeking the Spirit's new workings within  
us.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love, freely given without expectation or strings attached. While we are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others, holding court in our own hearts. We would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy, forgetting the new commandment to love as you have loved us. We would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in return, missing the trustworthy and true nature of your boundless forgiveness. Forgive us, Redeeming God, and transform our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love so that our relationships and your world are transformed. Amen.

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Behold: The former things have passed away,  
**And God's grace flows like a river of new life.**

Friends, hear the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven!

**In Christ we are made new!**

\*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, and Fugue in D minor*

*Nancy McNeal, Harpsichord*

*William Boyce*

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

**Gracious and Loving God, as you once declared, “See, I am making all things new.” So now, through your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your transforming word in Scripture. Grant us a new vision of the height, depth, and breadth of your trustworthy and true love, that we may be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, reflecting the new creation you have begun in us. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Cheryl McDevitt, Flute; Jan Cox, Piano*

*Vocalise, opus 34, No. 14*

*Sergei Rachmaninoff*

THE FIRST READING

*Acts 11:1-18*

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the

beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Every Valley*

*The Haviland Choir*

*John Ness Beck*

Beckenhorst Press, CCL#2595933

Every valley shall be exalted,  
and every mountain made low;  
and the crooked made straight,  
and the rough places plain.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Every valley shall be exalted,  
and every mountain made low,  
and the crooked straight,  
and the rough places plain,  
and all flesh shall see it together.  
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

THE GOSPEL READING

*John 13:31-35*

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little

longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

*"Love Without Limits"*

*Pastor Annie Parker*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 2223 (*Sing the Faith*)

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

\*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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Pentecost Offering*

*Mark Smith*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*Don Hustad*

*Pentecost Offering envelopes are in Pew Racks.  
Cash offering today will go to the Board of Deacons.*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Generous God, receive these gifts that we place before your throne. Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, furthering the holy work of your new kingdom in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who revealed to us the truth of your loving commands. 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*)

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Little children, lift your hearts to God.

**We lift them to the One who loves us forever.**

Let us glorify the One who has raised Jesus to new life.

**We sing praises to God, who makes all things new.....**

Therefore, with those around the Throne,  
and with those in every time and place,  
we sing our praises to you:

**Holy, holy, holy, God who makes all things new.**

**The height, the depth, the breadth, the width  
of creation praises you.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes, the Alpha and Omega.  
Hosanna in the highest!.....**

So as we sing our Easter Alleluias,  
we echo that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, that death would be defeated.  
Christ was raised, that God would be glorified.  
Christ will come again, that we would be led to life.**

**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.**

#### **BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP**

*The bread and the cup will be received by coming forward and  
given a piece of bread, taking the cup, and returning the cup to  
a tray. If you cannot come forward, you will be served in the pew.*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which  
you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the  
world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN 384**

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

**\*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

*Grand Choeur*

*Théodore Dubois*

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Questions for thought:**

1. What actions and words will demonstrate our love to the world?
2. How are we currently publicly displaying our Christianity, how can we pivot to demonstrate our Christianity through love instead?
3. How are we governing God's love or our own love and withholding it from others?

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

**Liturgist:** Mark Smith

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins** have been given anonymously to the Glory of God.

**Flowers** have been given by Rich and Pat Eichler with love and joy for our many blessings; and by Melvin and Jenny Wilms in memory of Dorothy and Lawrence Wilms.

**Geraniums for Pentecost** – Plants are \$6.00 for a 4" pot. Order today in Fellowship Hall or call/e-mail the Church Office during the week, 330-337-9555 / [phyllis@fpcsalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsalem.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.

**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** – 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 on [www.salemcommunityfoundation.org](http://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.

### Vision Statement

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

### Sunday, May 18

Environmental Team after Worship (Library)  
2:00 Wilhelm Music Studio Piano Recital (S)  
6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)

### Monday, May 19

10:00 Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 Troop 3 (Basement) / Troop 2003G (209)

### Wednesday, May 21

10:00 Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, May 25

9:00 Youth and Adult Church School Classes  
10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)  
10:30 Service of Worship – *Western Reserve Brass*

### Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 29

9:00 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

### Sunday, June 1

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)  
10:30 Service of Worship

---

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)