

**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, March 16, 2025, 2nd Sunday in Lent**

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Pianist: Jake Wilder

Flowers are given to the honor of God by Vern & Liz Hobbs



Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer  
 Lenten Candles Devotional

Call to Worship **Psalm 27** 493

\*Hymn **Cwm Rhondda** *Welsh Hymnal 40*

\*Prayer of Confession: We always hear the call to trust in God. **But honestly, some days, our stresses and doubts are even more real to us than God, and trust in God is elusive.** We remember how Abram dared to believe in God's promise. **But belief like that is hard to come by.** We are often inclined to think, "God helps those who help themselves," instead of daring to rely on the Word of our Creator. **We forget the wisdom of scripture, reminding us that we find traces of evil both outside and inside ourselves.** With God's help, we confront our fears and struggles and call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull. **Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.** (*Take a moment of silent confession*).

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Response **Glory Be to the Father** Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Readings **\*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18** 11  
**Luke 13:31-35** 951  
**Philippians 3:17-4:1** 1070

Time for Children

\*Hymn: **Now Thank We All Our God** 18

Sermon **"God Is Dependable"** Rev. Thomas Emery

**\*Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

Offertory Prayer

\*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

\*Hymn: **Great Is Thy Faithfulness** 40

\*Taking the Light into the World

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover

*\*Those who can are invited to stand.*



**Financial Update:**

Needed Weekly:	\$2,345.90	Needed to Date:	\$23,458.96
Rec'd 2025-03-09	\$1,525.00	Rec'd to Date:	\$28,965.18

**Sunday:** 2025-03-16 2nd Sunday in Lent  
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Bill & Ruth Evans*).  
 10:45 AM Session meeting.

**Tuesday:** 2025-03-18  
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.  
 7:00 PM The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs.

**Thursday:** 2025-03-20  
 Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at the Trinity Friends Church at 1017 S Shannon Street.

**Sunday:** 2025-03-23 3rd Sunday in Lent  
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Jason & Danielle Lloyd*).

**Announcements:**

Van Wert County Churches are holding a Good Friday noon Service at the First Presbyterian Church in Van Wert; all are invited. Other Easter events will soon be announced.

Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the March collection food is pork & beans.

The **2025 Flower chart** is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **April Newsletter**. Submit them to: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

16 <sup>th</sup> Tom Emery	18 <sup>th</sup> Morgan McCollow	18 <sup>th</sup> Mason Young
19 <sup>th</sup> Pamela Beamer	20 <sup>th</sup> Johnathon Morris	20 <sup>th</sup> Brian Owens
22 <sup>nd</sup> Toby Adkins	23 <sup>rd</sup> Josh Hoehn	29 <sup>th</sup> Bianca Richards



**The Faith of Abraham Looking at the Stars**

*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | March 16, 2025

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Dave Burnett (heart issues)  
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)  
Kim Coil (foot surgery)  
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Millie Fletcher  
Ellen Friesner  
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)  
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese  
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher  
David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer)  
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)  
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Tim Morris  
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad  
Bev Place (cancer)  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)  
Bianca Richards (leukemia)  
Mark Zielke (prostate cancer)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

**Serving Our Country:**

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)  
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)  
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)  
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

**Condolences** to the family of Bob Harter

**Prayer Concerns:**

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Dave Burnett (heart issues)  
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)  
Kim Coil (foot surgery)  
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Millie Fletcher  
Ellen Friesner  
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)  
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese  
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher  
David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer)  
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)  
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Tim Morris  
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad  
Bev Place (cancer)  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)  
Bianca Richards (leukemia)  
Mark Zielke (prostate cancer)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

**Serving Our Country:**

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)  
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)  
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)  
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

**Condolences** to the family of Bob Harter

Rev. Thomas Emery  
“God Is Dependable” Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
March 16, 2025

Abram has a significant concern. He is still childless and resigned to that fact, for he is prepared to designate his servant Eliezer as the heir to his estate (15:2). This procedure reflects a law from Nuzi tablet documents in ancient Mesopotamia that says a childless father might adopt a servant and name him as heir. God’s first word to Abram is the promise of a natural heir (15:4), and then there is the promise of legions of descendants (15:5). This third time Abram received promises (12:1–7; 13:14–17) is sufficient evidence for Abram. He believes in the Lord. He is willing now to stake his life on the reliability of the promises of his Lord.

### TEACHING POINTS

**POINT ONE – *We give thanks to God for His dependability.***

**POINT TWO – *Expect life to be rough on everyone, even with the promises of God.***

**POINT THREE – *We can live in contentment because God’s grace is enough for us.***

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

<sup>6</sup> And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith (Deuteronomy 26:10 NLT).

### ACTION POINT

God’s covenant with Abram is confirmed by a ritual (15:7–21). Abram is to bring a heifer, a goat, a ram, a dove, and a young pigeon. The heifer and the ram will be divided and arranged in parallel rows. In essence, the most frequent way in Hebrew to say “make a covenant” is “cut a covenant.” The ritual here is dramatic. It is as if God is placing Himself under a potential curse: “Abram, if I do not prove faithful to My Word, let the same thing happen to Me as to this heifer and ram.” Abram thus believes in the Lord. God declared Abram’s belief to be the basis for his having full standing in God’s presence. That means no accusation against one God declared righteous would stand in the heavenly court.

In this radical reorientation of the divine-human relationship, God proclaimed that Abram had this privileged position based on his faith, not righteous deeds or acts of devotion. Abram thereby becomes the model of all who worship Yahweh by faith. The audacity of his belief stands out against the bleakness of his situation. Furthermore, Abram’s complaints show that a person of faith sometimes feels disappointed and frustrated. Nevertheless, such a person is unafraid to express that feeling to God. On hearing God’s answer, Abram had to decide whether to continue exercising faith. Now as then, God often demands that one maintain faith in the face of improbable circumstances in which belief appears ridiculous.

Rev. Thomas Emery  
“God Is Dependable” Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
March 16, 2025

Abram has a significant concern. He is still childless and resigned to that fact, for he is prepared to designate his servant Eliezer as the heir to his estate (15:2). This procedure reflects a law from Nuzi tablet documents in ancient Mesopotamia that says a childless father might adopt a servant and name him as heir. God’s first word to Abram is the promise of a natural heir (15:4), and then there is the promise of legions of descendants (15:5). This third time Abram received promises (12:1–7; 13:14–17) is sufficient evidence for Abram. He believes in the Lord. He is willing now to stake his life on the reliability of the promises of his Lord.

### TEACHING POINTS

**POINT ONE – *We give thanks to God for His dependability.***

**POINT TWO – *Expect life to be rough on everyone, even with the promises of God.***

**POINT THREE – *We can live in contentment because God’s grace is enough for us.***

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

<sup>6</sup> And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith (Deuteronomy 26:10 NLT).

### ACTION POINT

God’s covenant with Abram is confirmed by a ritual (15:7–21). Abram is to bring a heifer, a goat, a ram, a dove, and a young pigeon. The heifer and the ram will be divided and arranged in parallel rows. In essence, the most frequent way in Hebrew to say “make a covenant” is “cut a covenant.” The ritual here is dramatic. It is as if God is placing Himself under a potential curse: “Abram, if I do not prove faithful to My Word, let the same thing happen to Me as to this heifer and ram.” Abram thus believes in the Lord. God declared Abram’s belief to be the basis for his having full standing in God’s presence. That means no accusation against one God declared righteous would stand in the heavenly court.

In this radical reorientation of the divine-human relationship, God proclaimed that Abram had this privileged position based on his faith, not righteous deeds or acts of devotion. Abram thereby becomes the model of all who worship Yahweh by faith. The audacity of his belief stands out against the bleakness of his situation. Furthermore, Abram’s complaints show that a person of faith sometimes feels disappointed and frustrated. Nevertheless, such a person is unafraid to express that feeling to God. On hearing God’s answer, Abram had to decide whether to continue exercising faith. Now as then, God often demands that one maintain faith in the face of improbable circumstances in which belief appears ridiculous.