

Service of Worship
December 13, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in the Season of Advent

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please print your name on a name tag and wear it so that we might greet you. Large print editions of the Bible, the Hymnal, and today's bulletin as well as hearing devices are available from the ushers on request.

■ ■ ■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover our peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

The Prelude

“Away in a Manger” and “Come on, Ring Those Bells”
Cherub Choir; Lisa Koops, director

■ ■ ■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath – the candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE.

People: Now we light the third candle of Advent.

Leader: This is the candle of JOY. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

The third Advent Candle is lit.

People: From the Book of Isaiah we read the words of our Lord: “But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”

Leader: From the New Testament, the words of Paul to the people of the church of Galatia: *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”* Let us pray:

People: We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.

*** The Processional Hymn No. 5**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

St. 3, choir only

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Clover Beal

Gracious God, you are the source of our joy and the ground of our being. We confess that we often look elsewhere for our contentment. Our lives are busy and we don't take time to be present in the moment with You and with those we love. Forgive us for being distracted.

A Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison

T. Wilson

■ ■ ■ *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria, Gloria No. 576**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

2nd time, men begin; women begin 2 measures later;

Children and youth begin 2 measures after that.

The Anthem

“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”

Voices in Bronze

arr. Allured

■ ■ ■ *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

The Family Meditation

Rev. Beal

*** Hymn No. 37**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

TODAY

Advent Musicians

Many thanks to Lena Console and Scott Lafferty, the trumpet players during Advent.

Welcome Visitors!

Please stop by the Visitor Information table in the Courtyard Foyer following worship. We're looking forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex.



Ten Thousand Villages

Do some Christmas shopping today at the Ten Thousand Villages sale in Fellowship Hall.

Neighborhood Welcome

A few people are needed to walk around our church neighborhood to distribute door hanger invitations to the Christmas Eve services. If you can spare a half hour today right after church, please meet Susan Reese or Diana Woodbridge at the front of the sanctuary to pick up a stack of invitations and a street assignment.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The scripture this week is **Luke 1: 39-55**.

Yoga

The Yoga class will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday December 16; the class will reconvene on January 6. All are welcome! The cost is \$10/class.

Thank You

To all who helped in this year's Advent Workshop – **Thank you**. This annual intergenerational event cannot happen without the many volunteers who helped cut, glue, paint, organize and cook. **Thank you** to Don Clark, Wendy Brock, Joanne Shaner, Laurie Logan, Carol Leslie, Molly Bergman, Kara Schellenberg, Pat Musick, Betty Clark, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Elspeth Peterjohn. Also, a huge **Thank you** to Morag Keefe, Tori Weisberg and the Mid-High Youth for preparing and serving the Advent Workshop baked potato lunch.

NEXT SUNDAY

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held next Sunday, December 20 during morning worship. The Descant, Sine Nomine and Chancel Choirs will all sing that morning – it's a good time to bring music-loving friends.

Blue Christmas

Is the Christmas season a hard time for you? The Rev. Lois Annich, a Presbyterian Pastor and Pastoral Counselor, will be presiding at a "Blue Christmas" service at 7:00 p.m. on December 21st at Plymouth Church (UCC) in Shaker Heights. The service will be a quiet and contemplative one focusing on God's comfort and care in times of stress.

Adult Education: 9:30 in South Hall

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|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Dec. 20 | My Favorite Things: The Music of Christmas | Mr. Barry Hartz |
| Jan. 3 | No class | |
| Jan. 10 | Christians in the Middle East | |
| | Dr. Peter Makari, Executive Dir. Global Ministries, Middle East and Europe, UCC and Disciples Churches | |
| Jan. 17 | How Then Shall We Live? | |
| | Spiritual Disciplines as a way to grow in your faith | Rev. Clover Beal |
| Jan. 24 | How Do I Pray? | Tom Zych and Clover Beal |
| Jan. 31 | Praying for Your Life | |

LOOKING AHEAD

December Care Group

This year the month of December will be covered by the YOU CARE Group. Are you wondering where this new Care Group came from? It doesn't seem to have a biblical name like most of them. Still wondering? This is the month that YOU may be called to help make and deliver a meal to a new mom and dad, YOU may be asked to deliver flowers, YOU may be asked to assist as a greeter or coffee hour server. In this month of giving, please consider giving of yourself and say yes when YOU are called to help with your church family.

From Cindy Newton, Deacon leader in December

This week's volunteers

Greeters: Robin Mervine and Marilyn Wilk
Coffee Hour Hosts: Cathy Ghiandoni and Mary Ball
Continental Breakfast: Cindy Newton

Social Groups and Circles

Iris Circle (all women of the church) We'll have a potluck supper in Bodwell Hall on Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m., then attend the Women's Festival of Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m.

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s – 50s) We will gather at the home of Paul and Katie Weissbrod (1104 Dorsh Rd, South Euclid) on Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. Please BYOB and bring an appetizer or dessert to share. No White Elephants this year, but bring a favorite from years past for our 25th anniversary celebration! RSVP to Paul or Katie (216-382-7953).

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s) On January 9, 2010 we will meet in the lobby of the Cleveland Museum of Art at 3:15 p.m. for a tour of the new East Wing with our favorite docent, Anne Wilson. The tour will last 1½ hours. The museum is free but there is a fee for parking in the garage. After the tour, we'll go to NightTown on Cedar Rd. in Cleveland Hts. for dinner. RSVP to Bob or Pat Jeffreys (219-381-2120 or bobpatj@aol.com) by December 28.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Youth*

Sr. High Youth will meet with Kate Burleigh this evening from 5 – 7 p.m.

Wednesday evening Bible Studies for senior highs continue at Phoenix at 7 p.m.

Mid High Youth will meet with Tori Weisberg on Friday, Dec. 18, from 6 – 8 p.m.

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1: 47-55; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45.

As part of your daily devotions, read the lessons. What image or word catches your attention? How do they settle or challenge you? Keep notes of your observations in a journal. Set aside part of each day for prayer and study. The lectionary readings for each Sunday are included in the "Sundays in December" page of the **TOWER**.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

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Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Calendar: December 13 - 20, 2009

Sunday, December 13: 3 Advent

9:00 Ten Thousand Villages: Sale begins
Overview meeting
9:30 Child care begins
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
Adult and Youth education
10:15 Descant Choir activity
Cherub Choir
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP
11:15 Pathways (gr. 1-5)
12:15 Coffee Hour
Sine Nomine Choir
Christmas Eve pageant rehearsal
5:00 MOB: Sr High
FaithLeader

Monday, December 14

7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36 (dens)
Al Anon
7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA)
Boy Scout Troop #403

Tuesday, December 15

12:30 p.m. Heather Circle (at Wellington's)
5:30 p.m. Iris Circle potluck
7:00 p.m. Women's Lessons and Carols
7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36 (dens)

Wednesday, December 16

7:30 a.m. Bible and Bagels
12:30 p.m. Bullshevicks
6:00 p.m. Yoga class
7:00 p.m. NOAH Board mtg
Session meeting

Thursday, December 17

9:45 a.m. Women's Book Group
4:00 p.m. Memorial Service for
Verna Bidelman
Reception following
6:20 p.m. Voices in Bronze
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, December 18

9:30 a.m. Al Anon

Saturday, December 19

8:00 a.m. Men's Group
9:00 a.m. Boy Scout training class
7:30 p.m. Pacesetters Christmas party

Sunday, December 20: 4 Advent

9:30 Child care begins
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
Adult and Youth education
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP:
Festival of Lessons and Carols
12:15 Coffee Hour
Christmas Eve pageant rehearsal
5:00 MOB: Sr High (at Lentzes')



Advent and Christmas Schedule at FHC

Tuesday, December 15

5:30 p.m. Iris Circle potluck (Bodwell Hall)
7:00 p.m. Women's Lessons and Carols (Chapel)

Saturday, December 19

7:30 p.m. Pacesetters Christmas Party (see p 7 for details)

Sunday, December 20

11 a.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 24

5 p.m. Family Worship
10:45 p.m. Musical Prelude
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship
12:00 a.m. Christmas Gathering

Sunday, December 27

Classes and choirs will not meet
11:00 a.m. Worship in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 3

Classes and children's choirs will not meet
11:00 a.m. Worship: Epiphany and the Procession of the Three Kings

The church office will close at 12 n., Dec. 24, and will be closed Dec. 25 and 31 and Jan. 1.



Luke 3:16

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

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