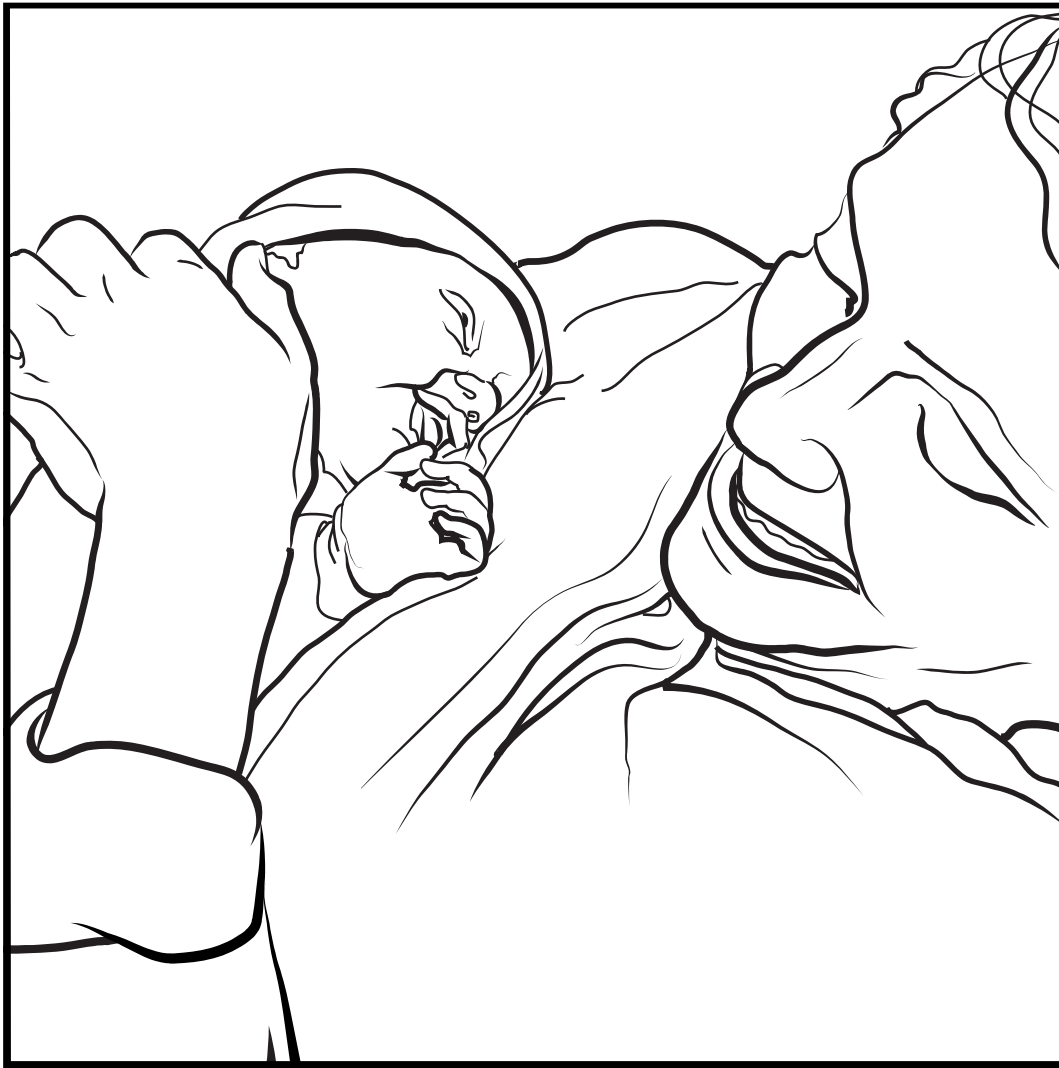


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Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music
Liz Wollaeger, Dir. Of Chr. Education
Kristen Otte, Director of Youth Ministries

Service of Worship

December 24, 2011 at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

■■■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Ted Loder

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
I would be silent now, Lord and expectant
That I may receive the gift I need,
So I may become the gift others need.

Prelude

"Carol of the Bells" M. Leontovych
"The Holly and the Ivy" arr. C. Manderfield
"He Shall Feed His Flock" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
Beth Zych, soprano; Mist'a Craig, countertenor

Welcome

Choral Introit

plainsong

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

■■■ *Entry into Celebration*

Rev. Clover Beal

Leader: The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!

Leader: This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

All: This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

*** Processional Hymn No. 41**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

A Christmas Prayer

All: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with brilliance of the light of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May the light shine on us and illumine our ways.

Women: Like Mary may we become strong risk takers and gentle care givers.

Men: Like Joseph may we trust in possibilities that are beyond our understanding and be vulnerable enough to follow.

Choir: Like the shepherds, may we open our eyes to the stars above and catch a glimpse of the angels that hover and then take the chance to go and see.

All: From this holy night may we go forth into the world with the light of Hope, the beacon of Peace, the lantern of Joy and the fire of Love so that cynicism, violence, despair and hate may be quenched and we become the people you would have us become. In Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN.

Carol arr. A. Thomas
“Walk in the Light”

Scripture Lesson : Isaiah 9: 2-7 read by Mist’a Craig
After the reading

Leader: Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gloria J. Bell
“Voces Angelorum”

A Reading from Psalm 96 read by Sharif George

Carol P. Orr
“Set the Sun Dancing”

The Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

After the reading

Leader: Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*** Hymn No. 44**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Stanza 3: Jaired Birks, soloist

Sermon Dr. John Lentz
“Occupy Bethlehem”

*** Hymn No. 40**
“Joy to the World!”

Prayers of the People Rev. Beal

The Lord’s Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Ritual of Friendship all are asked to sign the tablets as a record of attendance

Offertory Carol A. Adam
“O Holy Night”

This offering, unless otherwise noted on your gift, will be directed to Family Promise of Greater Cleveland and for the PC(USA)’s Christmas Joy Offering, a fund to support the ministries of racial ethnic education and the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions.

■■■ *Lighting of the Christmas Candle* Dr. Lentz

Leader: Light looked down and saw darkness.

All: “I will go there,” said Light.

Leader: Peace looked down and saw war.

All: “I will go there,” said Peace.

Leader: Love looked down and saw hatred.

All: “I will go there,” said Love.

Leader: So God, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

Ringling in of Christmas and the Passing of the Peace

*** Choral Benediction: Hymn No. 60** "Silent Night, Holy Night"
Stanzas 1 and 2, all sing
Stanza 3, Chancel Choir (in German)
Stanza 4, Sine Nomine Choir; all hum

■ ■ ■ *Postlude* L. Daquin
"Noel No. 8"



The paraments used during the Christmas season are given in memory of Nancy and Bob Mann by their daughter Katie Weissbrod and her family. The paraments were created by FHC member Mary Ann Breisch, who was inspired by John 1: 1-18. Mary Ann writes:
The image suggests that all is illumined in the light of the Holy. Like moving particles of dust caught in a sunbeam, we cannot make out the dust without the light, nor the light without the dust. Though we ourselves are not the light, we can be a witness to the light. Truly, "in your light, we see light." (Ps. 36:9)

■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Prayer Concerns this Week
Ruth Brickel, Bill Currie, Marian Frederick, Ron and Florence Klein, Debbie Ungemach, Johanna Wilcott
Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:
Bob Bielek, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Dorothy Hales, Elizabeth Kosnik, Merdine T. Morris, Marilyn Oviatt, Joyce Peters, Anne Taylor

This Month's Ushers
Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; Amy Davis, Chris Davis, Scott Duncan, Jean Duncan, Brian Klein, Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

TODAY
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.

THIS WEEK
Office Schedule
The office will be closed December 26, December 30 and January 2.

NEXT SUNDAY
New Year's Day
Classes and choirs will not meet. Worship will be held in Fellowship Hall at 11 am.

LOOKING AHEAD
Care Group
The YOU CARE Group – all members of the church – is responsible for meeting needs that arise this month. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leader.

Homeless Stand Down Information
Many of our homeless neighbors struggle daily to find resources to meet their basic needs - toothpaste, socks, bus tickets. The Ministry of Justice and Mission has chosen to help meet these needs this year by using benevolence funds to donate coats, boots, hygiene and bus kits to the Homeless Stand Down. We will be purchasing items for at least 35 hygiene kits and 20 bus kits (which include bus tickets, socks, and handwritten notes of support), and we need your help to assemble these after church on Jan 15. We are also accepting additional donations from individuals who would like to give complete hygiene kits or items. If you would like to donate this way, **please bring items or completed kits to the church by Sunday, Jan. 8.**

The following items are needed for a complete hygiene kit:
shampoo and conditioner (full size), bar of soap, washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste,
shaving cream and razor (men), tampons & pads (women)
additional items if desired: floss, mouthwash, nail file, etc. Please contact Laura Steiner
at lauramsteiner@yahoo.com or 216-870-0119 with questions or if you can plan to help
assemble kits on the 15th.

■ ■ ■ *Youth News*

Today: Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
This Week: Winter Break Lock-In, Dec. 29-30, 8 pm – 8 am at Mayfield Church
(7747 Mayfield Rd., Chesterland)

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 22: 22-40. 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.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

Program Staff

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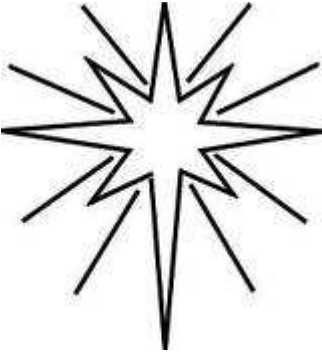
Office Staff

Becky Austin / beckya@fhcpresb.org ext 203
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■ ■ ■ *Calendar: December 25, 2011 – January 1, 2012*

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day: The Nativity of the Lord 11:00 WORSHIP in Fellowship Hall 12:15 Coffee Hour <i>No classes or choirs</i>	Thursday, December 29 8:00 pm YOUTH: Lock-in at Mayfield Church Friday, December 30 The office is closed
Monday, December 26 The office is closed 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)	Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day: The First Sunday after Christmas 11:00 WORSHIP in Fellowship Hall 12:15 Coffee Hour <i>No classes or choirs</i>



Merry Christmas to All!

cover art by Eric Muller-Girard