



Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence,

Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!

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Service of Worship

January 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

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*

For all that has been – Thanks!

For all that shall be – Yes!

Give thanks for all that has been and all that is to come.

Welcome

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

Call to Worship

Leader: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;

People: for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Leader: For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

People: so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*** Opening Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

■■■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

People: And because we are children. God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba, Father!’

Leader: So you are no longer a slave, but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

All: We move from old year into new. Help us to remember that throughout all our years we live and move and have our being in you, gracious God. For all that hinders us from moving freely into a new day, freedom. For all that burdens us, release. For sins committed, forgiveness. For opportunities missed, another chance. For dread for tomorrow, a good word of love and hope. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Time of Silent Confession

■■■ *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.*

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

Scripture Lessons

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

Revelation 21: 1-6

After the reading

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*** Hymn**

“The Third Song of Isaiah”

Community Reflection

Rev. Clover Beal

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Prayers of the People

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.

Offertory

arr. C. Carr

“Here We Come A-Wassailing”

*** Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

■ ■ ■ *Going Forth to Live as God's People*

* **Closing Hymn**

"From A Distant Home"

* **Commission and Blessing**

* **Choral Benediction**

* **Passing of the Peace**



■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today have been given by the Klein family in honor of Florence, mother and grandmother. Happy Birthday!

A donation towards worship enrichment has been given by Molly Bergman in memory of Ken Bergman and all others who provide time and effort making our church a better place.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Ruth Brickel, Bill Currie, Marian Frederick, Ron and Florence Klein, Debbie Ungemach, Charles White, 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

Kevin Stauffer, Lead Usher; Joe Andrews, Nick Baumgartner, Charles Ishler, Jane Ishler, Kate Monaghan, Daryl Musick, Victoria Sampson. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

Nursery care for babies and young children is available on the second floor of the Monticello Wing.

■ ■ ■ *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 January 2.

Reminder: Annual Report submissions are due January 3

Come Sing in the Choir

Have you considered singing in a choir at FHC? January is a great time to give it a try, as the singers are starting all new music. For more information, contact Anne Wilson (216-870-2729 or annew@fhcpresb.org).

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lesson this week is **John 1: 43-51**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

Ms. Jan Thrope, author of *Inner Visions: Grassroots Stories of Truth and Hope* and Executive Director of Inner Visions of Cleveland, will lead the discussion. *Inner Visions: Grassroots Stories of Truth and Hope* is written and photographed from the perspective of people living in some of the most economically challenged areas of Cleveland's east side urban core. It is a story of what is seen on these streets. But it is also about the power of what happens when neighbors connect to neighbors to co-create the life they envision. For more information, go to <http://innervisionsofcleveland.org> .

LOOKING AHEAD

Care Group

The Deacon Care Group is responsible for meeting members’ needs during January. 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 leaders.

✦ Members of this month’s Care Group are:

Deb Adrine	Janet Kickel	Joy Stang
Mary Ball	Robin Mervine	Ahren Stock
Jennifer Blakeney	Daryl Musick	Julie Waring
Al Gilbert	Cindy Newton	Nancy Wyss
Carol Hopkins-Lutz	Dick Peterjohn	
Cathie Kernich	Carol Phillips	

Social Groups and Circles

Pacesetters (singles and couples, 40s – 60s)

Chris and Dave Bell will host a planning party for Pacesetters on January 14, 2012, at 7 pm at their home, 3040 Scarborough. Bring ideas for 2012, and something to eat and drink. RSVP to Chris or Dave (216-932-6992 or chris3040@aol.com).

Youth News

Next Sunday: Classes will resume at 9:30 am.
Converge! meets at 7 pm at First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Hts. The theme for January is *All Things New*. Bring a new or used children’s book for the offering.

Looking Ahead: Saturday, January 14 – tobogganing at The Chalet! Leave FHC at 5 pm.

The Lessons

Next Sunday: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12. 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. Links to the readings for each Sunday appear on the church’s Facebook page, the **Upcoming Sundays** page of our website (<http://www.fhcpresb.org/worship-music/upcoming-sundays/>), and on the “Sundays in January” page of the **TOWER**.

FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions

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Adult Education in January

9:30 am in South Hall

January 8

Presentation by Ms. Jan Thrope, author of *Inner Visions: Grassroots Stories of Truth and Hope* and Executive Director of Inner Visions of Cleveland.
(<http://innervisionsofcleveland.org>)

See p. 7 of the bulletin for details

January 15

The FHC Courageous Conversations on Race Group

January 22

Dr. John Lentz, Jr. “What did Jesus Mean by ‘the Kingdom of God’?”

January 29 - April 1

Kerygma Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark

Jan. 29 - Feb. 26, large group in South Hall

March 4 - 25, small group studies

April 1, large group wrap-up

Watch for more details!

■■■ *Calendar: January 1 - 8, 2012*

<p>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></p> <p>Monday, January 2 The office is closed 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)</p> <p>Tuesday, January 3 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #36</p> <p>Wednesday, January 4 7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>Thursday, January 5 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Friday, January 6 Epiphany 9:30 am Al Anon</p> <p>Saturday, January 7 10:30 am Deacons' retreat</p> <p>Sunday, January 8 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion Children in Worship Little Explorers 12:15 Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir 5:00 Faith Leader 7:00 Youth: CONVERGE at First Baptist Church</p>
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