

Service of Worship
December 24, 2013 at 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve

■ ■ ■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Anonymous

Come, little Word, weary world awaitin',
Come, little Word, eyes open wide.
Come, little Word, welcome table ready.
Now, little Word, be a good time.

Prelude

“Carol of the Bells”

Mykila Leontovych

Sine Nomine Choir

“Here’s a Pretty Little Baby”

spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas

Beth Zych, soprano

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

Jack Lentz, tenor

Welcome

Choral Introit

plainsong

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (Hymn No. 108)

■ ■ ■ *Entry into Celebration*

Rev. Clover Beal

Leader: He did not wait till the world was ready, till people and nations were at peace. He came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

People: **He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great. He died with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.**

Leader: He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame he came, and his Light would not go out.

People: **He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the mystery of the Word made flesh, the Maker of the stars was born.**

Leader: We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with love: Rejoice! Rejoice! Let us worship God!

Madeleine L’Engle, “First Coming”

*** Processional Hymn No. 133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

A Christmas Prayer (*unison*)

Great God, as you came in the stillness of night, enter our lives this night. Overcome darkness with the light of Christ’s presence, that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 read by Michael Judge

After the reading:
Leader: Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem Peter Wishart
“Alleluya, A New Work Is Come on Hand”

A Reading from Psalm 96 read by Michael Nicoletti

Anthem Douglas Coombes
“All in the Morning”
Sine Nomine Choir

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. 160**
“A Stable Lamp Is Lighted”

Sermon Rev. Dr. John Lentz, Jr.
“DEAR BABY GOD”

*** Hymn No. 134**
“Joy to the World!”

Prayers of the People Rev. Clover 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

French trad., arr. Andrew Carter

"A Maiden Most Gentle"

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*

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.

Ringin' in of Christmas and the Passing of the Peace

* Choral Benediction: Hymn No. 122

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Stanza 1, all sing

Stanza 2, Sine Nomine Choir

Stanza 3, Chancel Choir (in German)

Stanza 4, all hum and join hands across the aisle

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

Louis Daquin

"Noel No. 8"



Many thanks to the Christmas trumpeters: Scott Lafferty and Ahren Stock

Join us Sunday December 29

Worship in Fellowship Hall

11:00 am



Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by:

Doris Allen, in memory of Wendell Allen

Betsy and Joe Andrews, in honor of Cooper and Cameron Andrews

Mary Ball, in thanksgiving for grandchildren Keara, Caiden and Mykelti Ball

Chris and Dave Bell, in thanksgiving for family and friends

Joanne Bielek, in memory of Robert Bielek

Jennifer Blakeney and Maurius Juodisius, in thanksgiving for their parents

Nancy Burcham, in memory of loved ones and in thanksgiving for
our dedicated staff

The Cameron family, in loving memory of Dr. Donald B. Cameron,
Mary Margaret Cameron and Alan Scott Cameron

Mark Chupp and Sharon Shumaker, in memory of Ralph Stoltzfus

Don and Betty Clark, in memory of their parents

Cathy and Don Ghiandoni, in honor of their grandchildren

Albert and Iris Gilbert, in honor of Albert C. Gilbert IV at Harvard University, in
memory of Charles and Walda Ann Gilbert, and in thanksgiving for 63
years of marriage

Don and Nancy Grube, in honor of Anne Wilson and the Chancel Choir

Robyn Hales, in memory of her mother Dorothy Hales

Barbara Hansen, in memory of Lamont Hansen and Ethel Van Fleet

David and Anne Hunter, in memory of loved ones

Joan Kandare, in honor of loved ones

Cliff and Jane Kowall, in memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul
and Dorothy Kowall

Scott and Sue Lafferty, in thanksgiving for the Forest Hill community

The Lentz family, in honor of Deanne's mom and those who have lost their
stories

The Leslie/Richards/Strachan families, in memory of Hugh, Lois and
Barbara Leslie

Clyde and Karen Loughridge, in memory of loved ones

Jeanette Nemcek, in thanksgiving for Bob and Anne

Marjorie Ravas, in memory of her parents

Sondra Schultz, in honor of her grandchildren

Stephen Sedam and Virginia Weiss, in honor of their beloved siblings Kathy,
Rebecca, David and Feather; and in memory of Nelson and Ann Weiss and
Herbert and Ruth Sedam

Jim and Pat Seeders, in honor of their mothers June Rice and Mable Seeders

Dan and Joanne Shaner, in honor of their parents Randy and Sara Shaner and
Dave and Peggy Gamble

Jeff and Anne Smith, in thanksgiving for Camille, Aiden, Nikolas, Sophie, Chloe,
Andrew, Norah

Anona Stack, in honor of children and grandchildren

The Stadler family, in honor of Miva Lyon, in memory of Claire Lyon and in
thanksgiving for Ben and Drew

Kathy and Derry Stauffer, in honor of Margie and Dwight Stauffer

The Trammell family, in memory of Rebecca Fiddler (Alicia's mother) and Fred
Trammell (Mark's grandfather)

Dorothy Turick, in memory of Frank and Ida Turick

The Winters family, in memory of Roy and Barbara Henning, Andrew Celeri,
and Max Scarborough

The Wollaeger and Olson families, in memory of Bill and Nancy Olson

Diana Woodbridge, in memory of Ted

Bob and Ginny Young, in memory of loved ones

Dene Young, in memory of loved ones

*The wreaths on the front doors are a gift from
the Hilltop Garden Club*

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)

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

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Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor

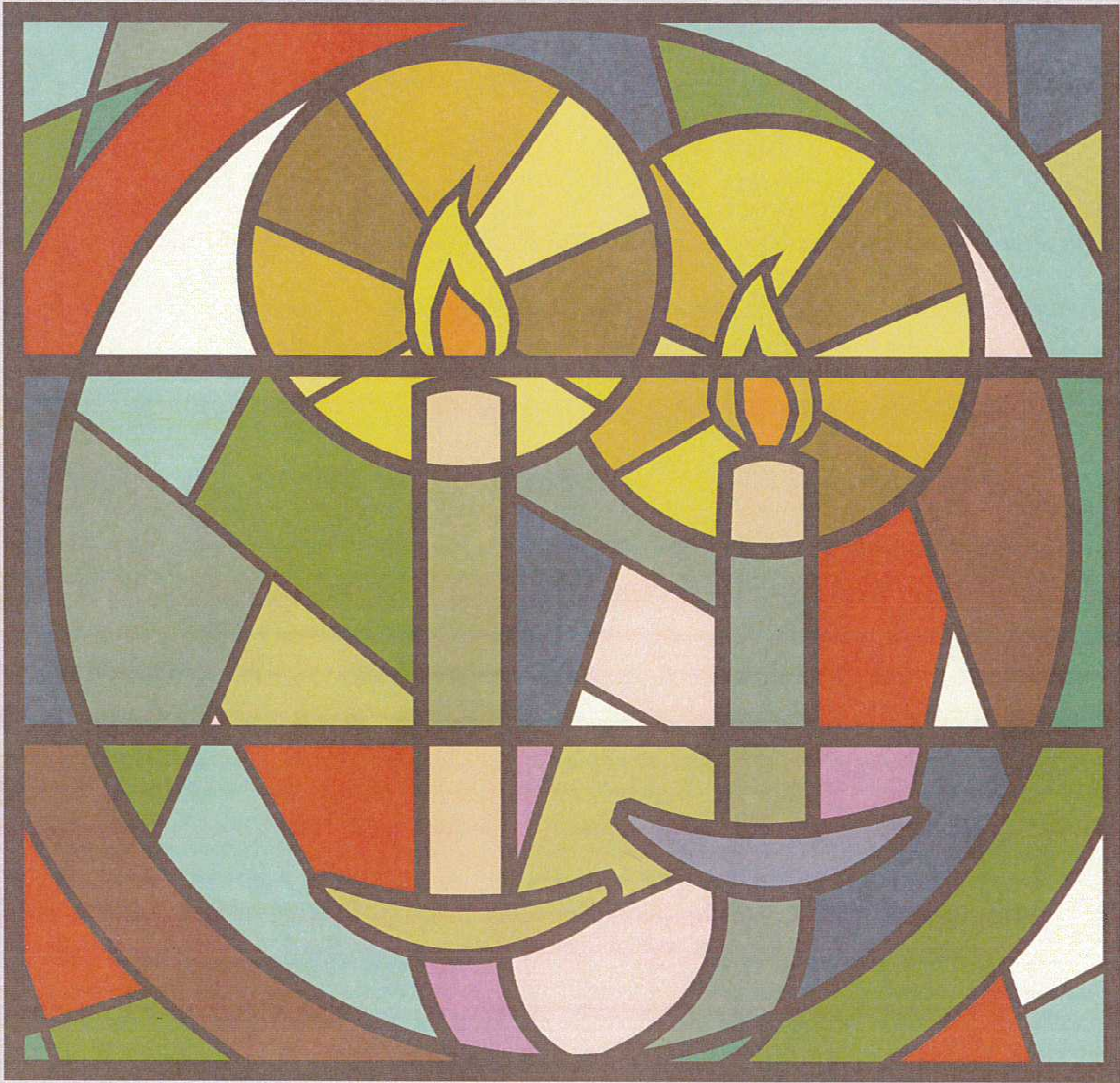
Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music

Liz Wollaeger, Dir. Of Chr. Education

Kristen Otte, Director of Youth Ministries



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

One True Light

This holy season, let the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem illuminate our hearts and shine in our actions by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Three Ways to Give

- Through your congregation
- Text **JOY** to **20222** to give \$10
- presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

