

Service of Worship and Sacrament of Baptism

December 8, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday in the Season of Advent

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.

Our ushers have large print editions of the Bible and today's bulletin;
hearing devices; activity bags with quiet activities for children staying in worship;
and directions to our Monticello Wing nursery for babies and young children.

■ ■ ■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Ted Loder

O God, grant me your sense of timing.

In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold,

Teach me the lessons of beginnings:

that such waitings and endings may be a starting place,

a planting of seeds which bring to birth

what is ready to be born...

Welcome

Prelude

J. S. Bach

Partita II "Allemanda"

Edie Duncan, violin

Choral Introit

■ ■ ■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Headen family

Leader: The poet Wendell Berry wrote:

When despair for the world grows in me,
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still waters.

All: We think of the twenty-third Psalm: The Lord leadeth me beside the still waters. God restores my soul.

Leader: When everything seems hopeless, when we feel as dead as the dry bones in Ezekiel's valley, God calls us away from the workday world. God calls us to breathe in the holy breath of peace. When we light the candle of Peace, we breathe in the One who restores us.

All: Whatever we face in life, God's Spirit of peace will dwell within us.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*** Processional Hymn No. 93**

"Lift Up Your Heads"

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

Prayer of Confession

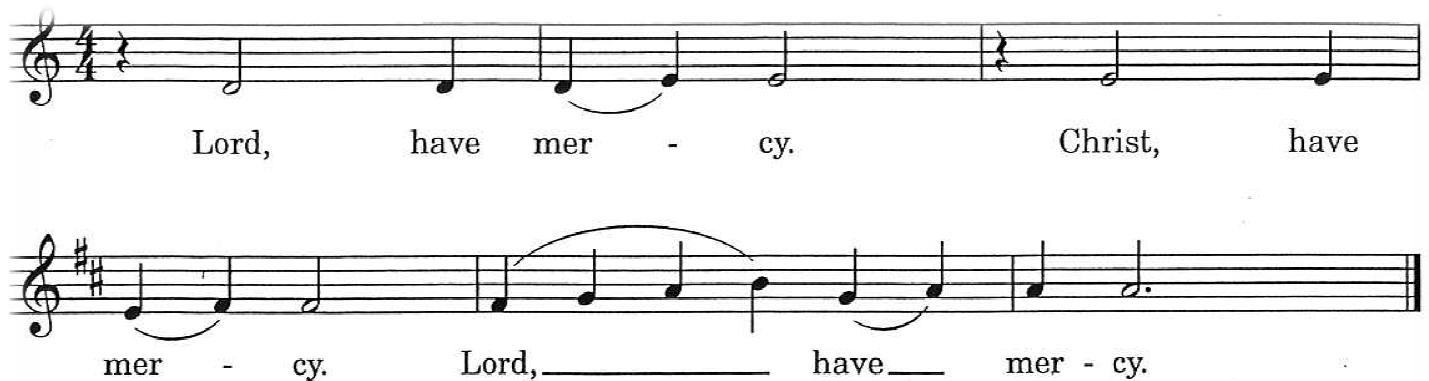
Rev. Clover Beal

We confess that our lives are not peaceful. We have much to do and little time to do it in. We confess that there is little peace in the world. Misunderstanding, violence, and distrust seem to have the upper hand. Yet we trust that into this world you bring your peace, O Lord. Help us to receive your peace "which passes all our understanding," and then to live as followers of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Craig Phillips



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

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria, Gloria No. 583

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*

Family Meditation

Liz Wollaeger

"The Jesse Tree"

* Hymn 95

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Scripture Lesson

Gary Sampson, lay reader

Matthew 3: 1-12

After the reading

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz

"What Are You Waiting For?"

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.

Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign as a record of attendance

Offertory

G. F. Handel

"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion"

Mist'a Craig, countertenor

* 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.**

Sacrament of Baptism for Shawn Bittner

Peg Weissbrod, attending Elder

Reception of New Members

Please welcome the following into membership in Forest Hill Church:

Shawn Bittner

Libby Dolan

Shannon Headen

Kathy Carr

Sheryl Dugard

Jessica Kelley-Moore

Quentin Smith

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

* Closing Hymn No. 147

"The First Noel"

St. 1, 2, 6

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

* Passing of the Peace

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

J. S. Bach

"In Dulci Jubilo"

**please stand if able*



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Welcome bags are available throughout the building. Take one home with you!

■ ■ ■ *Congregational Notes*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given by the Khoury family in memory of Brian; and by Paula Bodwell Harvey and her husband Tom Harvey in loving memory of Paula's parents, George and Ginny Bodwell, and Tom's parents, Mary and Robert Harvey; and by Consuelo Heineman to celebrate Grant and Roger's birthdays.

Lighting the Advent Candles

LaDon, Shannon, Lotus and Zen Headen are lighting the Advent candles today.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Chessie Bleick, Dick Bloomquist, Iris Gilbert, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Ron and Florence Klein, Debbie Ungemach, Anne Taylor.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ruth and Arthur Brickel, Bill Currie, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Elizabeth Kosnik, Emelia McGuire, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié.

We invite you to write prayer requests on a slip of paper from the envelope rack and pass it to an usher during the singing of the middle hymn, to be included in the prayers later in the service. Lists of ongoing prayer concerns are in each month's **TOWER**.

Please welcome the newest member of the Forest Hill family: Sophie Amelia Jean-Mary, daughter of Ralph and Michelle Jean-Mary. The family lives in Abu Dhabi and may be reached by email.

This Month's Ushers

Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; Brian Klein, Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

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

Attendance last week (including Pathways children): 236

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

TODAY

Labre Ministry

Donated items are always needed, including gently used clothing (jackets, sweaters and sweats), as well as personal items like socks and underwear. The group is also looking for a nurse who can do simple health screenings once a month. The next Labre Project is this evening at 5:40 pm. Please contact Jack Breisch if you are interested in donating or joining the Labre team on its next mission.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 am in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lessons this week are **Isaiah 35: 1-10; Psalm 146: 5-10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11.**

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education in Advent, 9:30 in South Hall (Dec. 1, 8, 15)

Three important biblical characters present us with the idea of waiting and preparing for the Messiah--our work for Advent: Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. The three-session study will focus on our own journeys toward hope, preparation, courage and receiving blessings. Please join in Adult Ed for Advent as a way to prepare yourself for the coming of the Christ at Christmas.

Facilitators: Kermit Lind, John Lentz and Elspeth Peterjohn

Four Sundays in Advent: Reading the Prophet Isaiah

Kermit Lind will lead a special 4-week series in December – Reading the Prophet Isaiah: Studying Isaiah’s Vision of God’s Indictments, Judgment, Redemption and Hope, Then and Now. The class will meet from 12:20 – 1:45 pm on Sundays, December 8, 15 and 22 in South Hall. Please bring a bag lunch.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The annual Festival of Lessons and Carols is next Sunday, December 15. The Descant, Sine Nomine and Chancel Choirs are all hard at work preparing music for this special service. Invite friends to join you!

Ten Thousand Villages Shop

Ten Thousand Villages Shop returns to FHC on Sunday, December 15 from 9:30 – 1:30. Plan your Christmas shopping to include this wonderful opportunity to purchase beautiful Fair Trade gifts in the comfort of Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed for set-up, break-down and selling. If you can help, please contact Jennifer Blakeney .

LOOKING AHEAD

Care Group

The Deacons are responsible for meeting members’ needs during December. 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.

✦ FHC Deacons are:

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|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Joan Bacon | Carol Hopkins-Lutz | Richard Peterjohn |
| Barb Cloud | Carol Leslie | Ahren Stock |
| Cathy Ghiandoni | Mary McMillan | Julie Waring |
| Carol Gifford | Pat Musick | |

This week's volunteers: Richard Peterjohn, continental breakfast; Mary McMillan, coffee hour; Joan Bacon and Barb Cloud, greeters.

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s)

The annual Group Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 13 at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews (2740 Fairmount Blvd., CH). Please bring an appetizer, vegetable, salad or dessert; the main course, as well as coffee and soft drinks, will be provided. BYOB if you wish. We will again provide gifts for a family from Boulevard School. RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni.

Iris Circle (all women of the church)

Iris Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 pm for a potluck and a program about the recent Haiti mission trip. Please contact Barb Hansen for more information.

Christmas Eve Cookies

We need cookies for the cookies-and-milk reception after the late Christmas Eve service. If you can bake a few extra dozen, please do so, mark them **Christmas Eve – DO NOT TOUCH (THIS MEANS YOU)** and leave them in the church kitchen.

■ ■ ■ *Youth News*

Today: Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse after worship today.

Friday: All-Youth Lock-In! This Friday Dec. 13, 7 pm – Saturday morning at 8:30. What: Food (lots of it!), Games, Tournaments, Advent Activities, Christmas-Gift Creating. Quality time with youth leaders, adults and friends! Bring a friend (just make sure to give them the permission slip---ask Caitlin for one!)

Adult Volunteers needed (shift work gladly accepted!)

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Today's Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Next Sunday: Isaiah 35: 1-10; Psalm 146: 5-10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11. 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

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr. / pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org ext. 200

Rev. Clover Beal / pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org ext 201

Liz Wollaeger / lizw@fhcpresb.org ext. 206

Anne Wilson / annew@fhcpresb.org ext. 208

Caitlin Michelle Desjardins / caitlind@fhcpresb.org ext. 207

Office Staff

Becky Austin / beckya@fhcpresb.org ext 203

Lynda Bernays / office@fhcpresb.org ext 202

Stavros Gazis / office@fhcpresb.org ext 202



Area Services of Interest:

**Blue Christmas / Service of Memories:
Remembering those we miss at Christmas**

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7pm – Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 pm – Christ Episcopal Church, 3445 Warrensville Ctr Rd

Monday, Dec. 16, 7 pm – Disciples Church, 3663 Mayfield Rd

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 pm – Plymouth Church, 2860 Coventry Rd

**A Service of Commemoration: Remembering Those Lost to Gun
Violence**

Sunday, Dec. 15, 4 pm – Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Ave

■■■Calendar: December 8 - 15, 2013

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| <p>Sunday, December 8 2 Advent</p> <p>8:15 Nominating Committee mtg</p> <p>9:15 Child care begins</p> <p>9:30 Descant Choir rehearsal Adult Education Youth Education; Confirmation Youth Ensemble rehearsal</p> <p>10:15 Descant Choir activity time</p> <p>10:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal Continental Breakfast Session and New Members meet</p> <p>10:45 Cherub Choir rehearsal</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship</p> <p>11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir</p> <p>12:30 Christmas pageant rehearsal</p> <p>12:45 Isaiah Bible study</p> <p>5:00 Faith Leader</p> <p>5:40 Labre Project</p> | <p>Wednesday, December 11</p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi class</p> <p>7:00 pm Ministry meetings</p> <p>Thursday, December 12</p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi class</p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry open</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir FH Swim Club mtg</p> <p>Friday, December 13</p> <p>7:00 am TOWER deadline</p> <p>9:30 am Al Anon</p> <p>6:00 pm The Group (at Andrews' house)</p> <p>7:30 pm Youth Lock-in</p> |
| <p>Monday, December 9</p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi class</p> <p>9:00 am Abundance Pantry food distribution</p> <p>6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon Sycamore Group</p> <p>7:30 pm AA: Borton Boy Scout Troup #403</p> <p>Tuesday, December 10</p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi class</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p>7:30 pm Reaching Hts meeting</p> | <p>Sunday, December 15 3 Advent</p> <p>9:00 Ten Thousand Villages Shop opens</p> <p>9:15 Child care begins</p> <p>9:30 Descant Choir rehearsal Adult Education Youth Education; Confirmation</p> <p>10:15 Descant Choir activity time</p> <p>10:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal Continental Breakfast Cherub Choir rehearsal</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP: Festival of Lessons and Carols Children in Worship</p> <p>11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour Blood pressure check Youth Ensemble rehearsal</p> <p>12:30 Christmas pageant rehearsal</p> <p>12:45 Isaiah Bible study</p> <p>5:00 Faith Leader</p> |

Advent and Christmas at Forest Hill Church, 2013

Adult Education

“Advent through the Eyes of Those Who Waited”

(Dec. 15; 9:30 am)

Haiti Mission Trip: Multimedia program

(Dec. 22, 9:30 am)

“Reading the Prophet Isaiah”

(Dec. 15, 22; 12:20 – 1:45 pm): Registration requested

December 15, 9:30 am – 1 pm: Ten Thousand Villages shop

December 15, 11 am: Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 24 (12 pm) - 27: Office closed

December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm Family Worship

10:45 Musical Prelude

11 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

Followed by the annual milk and cookies reception

December 29, 11 am: Worship in Fellowship Hall

December 30, 9 am: Abundance Pantry Breakfast

December 31 - January 1, 2014: Office closed

Ministries will meet on December 11

Session will meet on December 18

About the Sanctuary Decorations

The Advent decorations remind us of the straw of the manger and the simple surroundings when Christ our Savior was born.

The Jesse Tree reminds us of the story of our faith and our ancestry that goes back into the early years of Judaism.

The greens and lights remind us of the eternal life giving illumination of God's love for all.

Thanks to Eric Muller-Girard for planning, creating and installing the sanctuary decorations.

Last chance to order poinsettias for Christmas!

You may call or email the office with this information, or put this in the offering:

Name (as you would like it in the bulletin):

Please print

Total # of poinsettias @ \$7 each: _____

you will take _____ *# to be donated* _____

Total cost: \$ _____

Dedication:

In honor of _____

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

Please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church, memo: POINSETTIAS

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

Please place all orders by December 8

Thank you!



Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

*Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence,
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*

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Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor

Liz Wollaeger, Dir. Of Chr. Education

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Caitlin Michelle Desjardins, Dir. of Youth Ministries