

# Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music

Dacia Prins, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Shannon Headen, Interim Dir. of Youth Education

*Service of Worship*  
*December 7, 2014 at 11:00 am*  
*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*

People of God, dare to hope. Dare to believe. Hear what God, the Living God, will speak, for God will speak peace to the people.

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Martin How

"Advent Message"

Descant Choir; Lara Troyer, soprano

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**Call to Worship and Lighting the Candle of Peace**

John and Sheryl Dugard

Reader One: Because of fear, because of violence, because of unrest in places like Jerusalem, Ferguson, and Cleveland, we light a candle of peace...

Reader Two: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been beaten into plowshares, we light a candle of peace...

*(Light the first two candles in the Advent wreath.)*

Reader One: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world...

Reader Two: May the light from these candles say to all that God's peace is coming on earth as it already is in heaven...

**All: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand. Let us worship the Lord.**

**\* Processional Hymn No. 82**

**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

*\*please stand if able*

## *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**Prayer of Reconciliation**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

**Life-changing Spirit, outline the contours of our repentance as we prepare the way for Christ. In our life together as church, in our relationships, in our homes and beyond, may our lives may be turned around, more than we bargained for but not less than we dared to hope, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Kyrie eleison** *(Lord, have mercy)* J. S. Bach (from *Christmas Oratorio*)

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

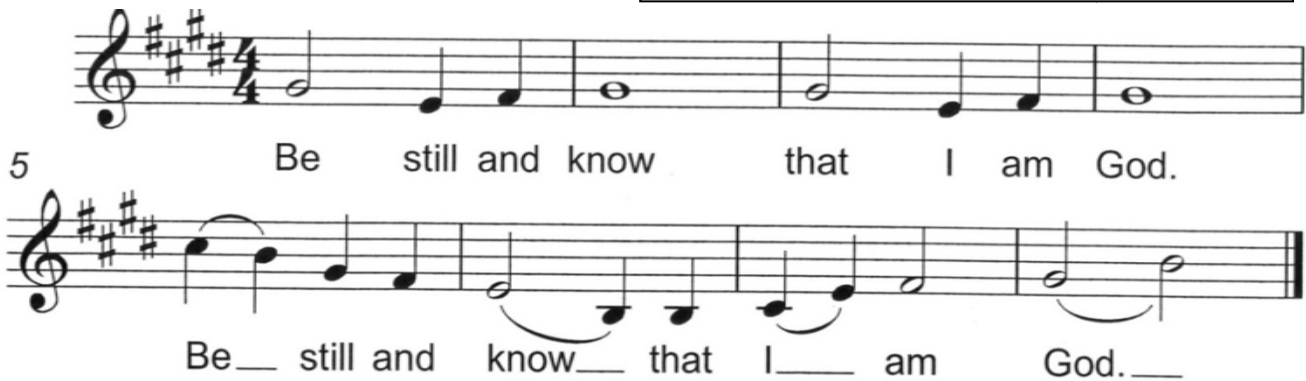
**Assurance of Pardon**

**\* Response** (John Bell)

**Singing instructions**

**First: All sing**

**Second: Men start, women and children start 1 measure later**



**Anthem** arr. J. Bell

**"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"**

Lisa Koops, flute

*Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

**Scripture Lesson** (read by Elder Elspeth Peterjohn)

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Mark 1: 1-8

*After the readings*

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**\* Hymn No. 129**

**"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

*Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

**Sermon**

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal

**"Here Is Your God!"**

**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

## Offertory

Michael Praetorius

"Come, Thou Savior of the Earth"

## \* 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 No. 92

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

### \* Commission and Blessing

### \* Choral Benediction

Michael Praetorius

"Amen"

### \* Passing of the Peace

## *Postlude*

J. S. Bach

"Come, Savior of the Gentiles"



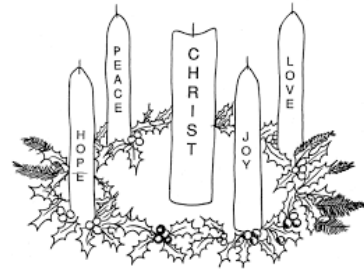
## ***Welcome Visitors!***

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Be sure to visit our website, **[www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)**, to find a complete list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and texts and audio of past sermons.

## ***Congregational Notes***

### **Lighting the Advent Candles**

Today we welcome John and Sheryl Dugard as they light the Advent candles for the second Sunday in Advent.



### **Music**

Special thanks to the Advent trumpeter, Ahren Stock.

### **Chancel Flowers**

Today's flowers are given by the Dise family in loving memory of their sister Ann Mercer Dise and their parents, Molly and Ralph Dise; by Bobbi and Peter van Dijk in loving memory of Millie and Ed Skeivis and Marilynn Skeivis Dougherty; and by the Khoury family in memory of Brian. A donation to Abundance Pantry has been given by Elspeth and Richard Peterjohn in memory of Barbara Beesley.

### **Prayer Concerns this Week**

#### **Prayers are requested this week for the following:**

Jane Frederick, Mary Lewis, Margaret and George Sentell, Debbie Ungemach.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:**

Bill and Kay Currie, Flora Dannemiller, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron and Florence Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié.

**This Month's Ushers**

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: 224**

*Announcements*

**TODAY**

***Today Is Hunger Sunday***

Any cash or checks in envelopes marked Hunger will be used 100% for support of hunger programs. Each month we send the money to the Hts Emergency Food Cupboard (Disciples Church, Cleveland Hts.), the New Covenant Lutheran Church Hunger Center (East Cleveland), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti.

**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 from **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28.**

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

***Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall***

***Mystics, Martyrs and Saints***

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556): Saint and Reformer, presented by FHC member Eric Muller-Girard and Kathryn Haag of the Pastoral Ministry Office, Diocese of Cleveland.

### ***Living in the Spirit***

There will be an informational meeting for the Lenten series “Living in the Spirit” on Sunday, December 14 after worship. “Living in the Spirit” is a scripture-based spiritual-practice group series based on the insights of Ignatius of Loyola, promoting deeper knowledge of Christ.

## **ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Penny Count***

The penny collection of a few weeks ago netted \$170 for Abundance Pantry – thank you!

### ***Care Group***

The All-Church Care Group is 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.

### ***From the Financial Office***

Are you considering making a gift of stock to Forest Hill Church before year’s end? Please start the process immediately to receive credit on your 2014 statement. Remember, giving appreciated stock is a win-win situation – you skip tax on any capital gain, and the church receives the full amount of your gift. Please contact Becky Austin for the Fidelity account information: [\*\*beckya@fhcpresb.org\*\*](mailto:beckya@fhcpresb.org) or 216-321-2660.

## ***Black History Month – February 2015***

For Black History Month we will be reading ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***. Robyn Hales will be have copies of the book for sale in Fellowship Hall during December coffee hours. Books are \$10 for paperback, can be purchased as a Kindle or audio book at Amazon.com. For more information, call Robyn ([216-659-9566](tel:216-659-9566)). We would like to have 60 participants! There will be an in-depth book review in March as well.

### ***Social Groups and Circles***

#### ***The Group (60s – 70s)***

The Group Christmas Party will be held next Sunday, December 14 at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews, 2740 Fairmount Blvd, CH 44106. Appetizers at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni (216 691-1905 or [ghiandoni.c@gmail.com](mailto:ghiandoni.c@gmail.com)) by Friday, 12/11/14. Information about our Christmas donations has been emailed to you.

#### ***Iris Circle (all women of the church)***

Iris Circle will look back a few years to elementary “school daze” on December 16 at noon in Bodwell Hall. Bring your lunch packed like Mother did. Show-and-tell your treasures and fond memories from the 40’s. Dessert and beverage will be provided. RSVP to Pat Jeffreys ([bobpatj@aol.com](mailto:bobpatj@aol.com) or 216-381-2120) or Nancy Burcham ([Burcham@roadrunner.com](mailto:Burcham@roadrunner.com) or 440-446-0832).

#### ***Young Adults (20s-30s)***

The Young Adults will meet the second Sunday of every month for brunch. This month we will go to Tommy's on Coventry. After worship next Sunday, December 14, join us for conversation, camaraderie and coffee. Please meet in the transept in the front right of the sanctuary. Contact Charity McDonald ([charityrmcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:charityrmcdonald@gmail.com)) with any questions .

## *Youth News*

### ***Every Sunday***

- Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 am.

### ***Today***

- Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse in the Chapel immediately after worship.

## *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

### ***Program Staff***

**Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.** / [pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) ext. 200

**Rev. Clover Beal** / [pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org) ext 201

**Dacia Prins** / [dacia@fhcpresb.org](mailto:dacia@fhcpresb.org) ext. 206

**Anne Wilson** / [annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org) ext. 208

**Shannon Headen** / [Shannon@fhcpresb.org](mailto:Shannon@fhcpresb.org) ext. 207

### ***Office Staff***

**Becky Austin** / [beckya@fhcpresb.org](mailto:beckya@fhcpresb.org) ext 203

**Lynda Bernays** / [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org) ext 202

**Stavros Gazis** / [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org) ext 202

## *Calendar: December 7-14, 2014*

<p><b>Sunday, December 7: 2 Advent</b></p> <p>9:00 Child care begins</p> <p>9:30 Adult education Descant Choir Fair Trade Bazaar opens</p> <p>10:00 Young Instrumentalists rehearsal</p> <p>10:15 Descant Choir activity</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 Fair Trade Bazaar Sine Nomine Choir</p> <p><b>Monday, December 8</b></p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi</p> <p>6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon</p> <p>7:30 pm AA: Borton Group Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 9</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry opens</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 10</b></p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>12:30 pm Wednesday Women's AA</p> <p>6:00 pm Deacons meet</p> <p>7:00 pm All ministries meet</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 11</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry opens</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze Bell Choir 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal FH Swim Club meeting</p> <p><b>Friday, December 12</b></p> <p>7:00 am <b>TOWER</b> deadline</p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon meeting</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 14: 3 Advent</b></p> <p>9:00 Child care begins</p> <p>9:30 Adult education Descant Choir</p> <p>10:00 Young Instrumentalists rehearsal</p> <p>10:15 Descant Choir activity</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir Cherub Choir</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 Sine Nomine Choir Living in the Spirit meeting Young Adults' brunch (Tommy's)</p> <p>4:40 Labre Project</p> <p>6:00 The Group (at Andrews')</p>
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**FHC Christmas Schedule**  
**Christmas Eve, December 24**  
5:00 pm Family Worship  
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

**December 25-26: Office closed**

**December 28**  
Classes and choirs will not meet  
11:00 am Worship in Fellowship Hall

**Poinsettias for Christmas**

Once again we are ordering poinsettias for the sanctuary. If you would like to order one or more (they are \$8 each), please complete this form and put it in the offering, or contact the church office by December 14:



**Your name**

**In whose honor or memory are you donating the flowers?**

**In honor of**

**In memory of**

**Number of plants**

**Do you want to take your poinsettia home, or donate it?**

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 21 and on Christmas Eve. They may be taken after the candlelight service on Christmas Eve or on December 28.

Abundance Food Pantry is collecting donations of turkeys, preferably frozen, any size, to be given to food pantry guests

Please contact Paul Jennings or the church office if you have a donation

### **FHC Cultural Immersion Trip to Haiti**

Have you ever thought about traveling to a developing country like Haiti? You probably have some questions. Are there things I could do? Is there a good place to stay? Is it safe? Can I really make a difference? The answer to all these is “yes”.

FHC in partnership with Haiti Outreach is planning a trip to Haiti for February 11 thru February 19, 2015. Haiti Outreach's vision is that Haiti become a developed country with clean water and sanitization, sufficient food, available medical care, and educational and economic opportunities. In fact it is through this partnership and our congregation's generosity that a well is under construction in Gabo, a remote village in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Our mission is to continue to play a part in this development by not only supporting projects financially but to build a long-term sustainable relationship with the people of Haiti through annual trips.

Our trip promises to be simple, comfortable, and fulfilling. We will leave Cleveland the morning of February 11 and arrive in Port-au-Prince that afternoon. During the week we will learn the history of Haiti and the work of Haiti Outreach, tour Pignon, visit a rum distillery and other community businesses. We will experience market day, and visit a hospital, an orphanage, and a school. On Sunday we will attend one of the local churches to experience an important part of Haitian culture. We hope to visit Gabo to see the well that FHC funded and meet their community leaders. For those who are able and interested, a work project may also be planned. An added bonus to our trip is that during this time we will participate in the three-day celebration of Mardi Gras. We will return to Cleveland on February 19 via Miami.

Join us for this life-altering trip. Although the itinerary has not been finalized, we promise you an experience that you will never forget. The cost of the trip per person is estimated to be \$1600 to \$2000 (airfare dependent) which will cover all of your transportation, lodging, and most of your meals. The only additional costs would be for souvenirs, a couple of meals, and possibly for side trips.

**Reservations with an \$800 deposit are being taken until Dec. 15.**

Contact Jeff Smith ([anneandjeffsmith@gmail.com](mailto:anneandjeffsmith@gmail.com) or 216-932-2932) for more information and/or to make a reservation.

## *Nearer to That Expectancy*

From *Iona Prayers*, by George F. MacLeod

Let us pray for shepherds: all who carry on their work in cold and sleet:  
those burdened down in serving in our shops,  
those soaked and cold guarding our city,  
all who in country field or city street and factory  
tend the everlasting fire of sacrifice  
that all may be housed and fed.  
As thou didst appear to the shepherds who were amazed,  
speak to all these that their work is holy.

Let us pray for wise men: all who in their science and studies  
Seek a star that will lead to harmony:  
All who in their planning take long journeys of adventure  
that others need not take them but may find rest:  
all who have grown tired of being merely clever and seek  
a simple solution in the paths of love.  
As thou didst appear to the wise men from the East,  
speak to all these that they may place their talents and their  
gifts at thy disposal.

Let us pray for the devout: all who find time to think of eternal things  
lest temporal things become chaos:  
all who linger in the house of God, knowing that God hears  
and will answer:  
all who pray for the sick as well as tending them  
and intercede for the world instead of cursing it.  
As thou in the temple courts did appear to Anna and Simeon,  
speak to all these in fulfillment of their prayers.  
We bless thee for protection on our homes.

We praise thee for all who have made true Christmas real to us  
In the words they have spoken in our youth,  
the things they have done for us in our pilgrimage.  
May we be warm where there is bitterness  
    be patient where there is doubt  
    be patient where there is opposition.  
So shall this advent bring folk nearer to that family that is in thee;  
And to that expectancy without which we cannot see the Lord.

## *The Lessons*

### **Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## **Mark 1: 1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

***Next Sunday: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28.*** As part of your daily devotions, read the lessons. What image or word catches your attention? How do they settle or challenge you?