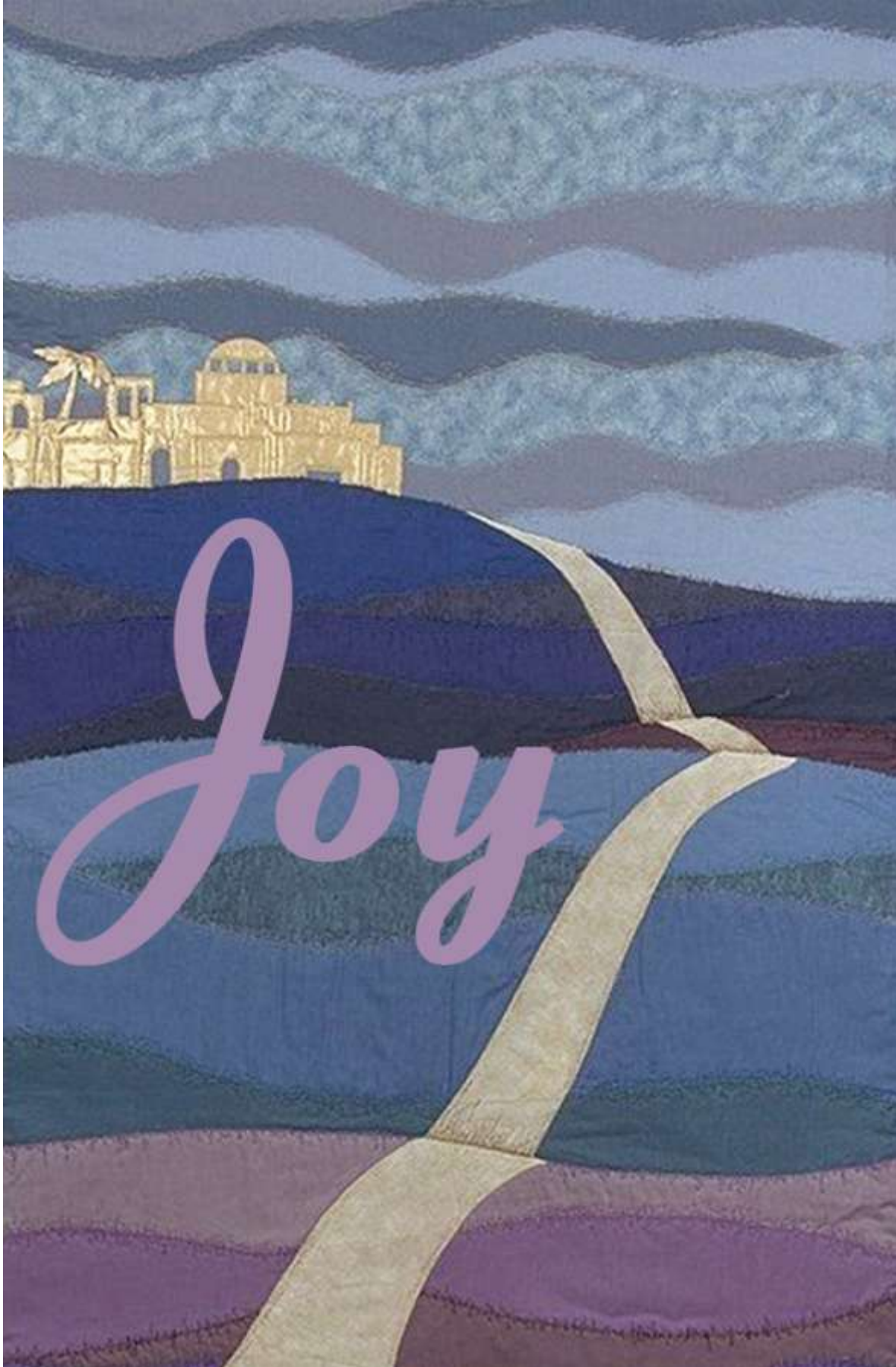


Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Service of Worship
December 11, 2016 at 11:00 am

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 hearing devices, large print editions of the bulletin,
activity bags for children staying in worship, and directions to our
nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

God of all joy, prepare us to hear your promises once more and act upon them with faith
and courage. We open our hearts to you!

Welcome

Prelude

Cherub Choir; Lisa Koops, director

“Away in a Manger”

Murray

“What Can I Give Him”

Rossetti/Holst

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Elder Peg Weissbrod

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

People: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Leader: Remembering the promises of God in prayer.

Lighting the Advent Candles

Beth, Dave and Maya Garrett

Leader: Let us pray

**People: O God, our redeemer, you lead us from sorrow’s dark shadows into
the light of your joy. Thank you for the promise of restoration you
have made known to us through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*** Processional Hymn No. 100**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that the world weighs heavily upon us. Global
and national issues fill us with fear. Grief, illness, concern for loved ones,
and our own anxieties drain us. We are so distracted. We act as if our
limited vision is accurate, as if we must go it alone. Forgive our
forgetting. Draw us back into your loving embrace and remind us that in
your presence is fullness of joy. In Jesus’ name we pray. 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

*** Gloria** Taizé

First time: All sing
Second time: Sing in a round starting with men;
women begin two measures later;
youth and children two measures after that.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Anthem English Carol

“What Child is This”
Youth Orchestra; Ahren Stock, director

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

Family Meditation Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Minute for Mission Charity McDonald

“Christmas Joy Offering”

*** Hymn No. 128** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

*Prayer requests to be read during the Prayers of the People
may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

Scripture Lessons

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Lois Annich

“Rejoice!”

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

Offering

Offertory

Skinner Chez-Melo

“As a Star on Cloudless Evenings”

*** 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.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

*** Closing Hymn No. 82**

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*** Commission and Blessing**

* Choral Benediction

* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

J. S. Bach

“In Dulci Jubilo”



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Be sure to visit our website, **www.fhcpresb.org**, for a list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and past sermon texts and audio.

Thank you to Scott Lafferty and Ahren Stock, the Advent trumpeters

Notes & Announcements

Today’s Advent Family: Beth, Dave and Maya Garrett

Chancel Flowers: Today’s flowers are given by the Khoury family in memory of Brian; by Consuelo Heineman to celebrate Grant and Roger’s birthdays; and by Paula Bodwell Harvey and Tom Harvey in loving memory of Paula’s parents, George and Ginny Bodwell, and Tom’s parents, Mary and Robert Harvey.

Prayers are requested this week for: Max Harmon, Patricia Jenkins, Robin Richards, Robert Ruggeri, George Sentell, Joy Stang, and Debbie Ungemach.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Iris and Al Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Jack Quinn, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas.

The Deacons encourage you to stop by the Greeting Card Table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship to sign a card for one or more of our homebound members. We will address and mail the card for you.

Care Group: The All-Church Care Group – YOU! – 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 leader.

In memoriam: Former member Jean Izant died on November 27. She was 92 and a resident of Anna Maria of Aurora, OH.

Coming Up

TODAY

Please join the CHPD-Community Relations Committee today at 12:30 in South Hall as we define our mission and next steps. All are welcome.

Poinsettias: It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas! The weekly email news contains a link to an order form. You may also order them by using the form on p. 10.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: **Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25**

Bible and Bagels discusses next Sunday's text(s) on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30. All are welcome!

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall During Advent we are offering a book discussion on ***The Names for the Messiah*** by Walter Brueggeman. The book is available in paperback and on Kindle. The discussion will conclude on December 18.

We will celebrate a *Festival of Lessons and Carols* during worship next Sunday, December 18. All the choirs will sing and Voices in Bronze will ring. Invite your music-loving friends!

Labre Project Warm, gently-used clothing and accessories – coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, blankets for men, women and children – are appreciated for the Labre Project in East Cleveland. Please leave donations in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

LOOKING AHEAD

Attention Retired Men: Join the Bullsheviks for lunch! We meet monthly on the third Wednesday at noon at Nighttown (12383 Cedar Rd, Cleveland Hts, 44106). Please join us on December 21. For reservation or questions please contact David Hunter (dhunter10@sbcglobal.net or 216-533-5728).

Photo exhibit: FHC member Olivia Ungemach currently has a collection of photos at Phoenix Coffee, 2287 Lee Rd., Cleveland Hts. Prices range from \$25 for 8 1/2 x 11 or \$50 for 13 x 19 framed. Photos will be available through mid-January. Contact: oliviaungemachphoto@gmail.com

Make note of these dates in December:

- December 18, 11 am** Festival of Lessons & Carols
- December 20, 12 pm** Abundance Pantry Lunch and food distribution
- 6:30 pm** Advent Art for Adults
- December 21, 7 pm** “The Longest Night” service at Church of the Saviour
- December 24, 5 pm** Family Christmas Eve service and the “No-Fuss” Christmas Pageant: all children who wish to participate will be included
- December 24, 11 pm** Candlelight worship
- December 25, 11 am** Worship
- December 27, 1 pm** Abundance Pantry food distribution

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 after worship

Forest Hill Church and Refugee Assistance

When we pray for the Lord to provide, the answer often is an opportunity to do God’s own work. Just such an opportunity has presented itself.

Many of you have met Danielle Drake of US Together, a non-profit that assists recently arrived refugee families manage the challenge of moving to our community from foreign lands and already chaotic circumstances. The congregation has generously supported US Together’s work financially, and we have discussed options for helping our new neighbors.

And now the next step has presented itself: Danielle has informed us that a single mother and her 14 year old son, both refugees from Afghanistan, are arriving in the next two weeks and require a place to stay for about a month as US Together puts together a residence plan. The timing is amazing: two people far from their homes are looking for room at the Inn. Familiar, no? We understand that this is a busy time of year and that many of us simply cannot accommodate more people in their home. I’m sure there will be other ways to help our new friends once they’re here. But it would be a blessing if, somehow, someone is able to make space for these guests.

If you are at all interested, please let John Lentz or Tom Zych know so that we can put you in contact with Danielle.

Thank you and season’s blessings.

Tom Zych

Calendar: December 11-18, 2016

<p>Sunday, December 11: Advent 3</p> <p>8:30 Nominating Committee</p> <p>9:30 Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir followed by Descant Choir Activity Childcare for children thru Kdg</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir Cherub Choir</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP Children’s Worship Class (preK-K)</p> <p>12:15 Coffee and Fellowship Sine Nomine Choir (gr. 6-12)</p> <p>12:30 Community Relations Committee</p> <p>Monday, December 12</p> <p>6:00 Progress not Perfection (AA)</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon</p> <p>7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #403 Borton Group (AA)</p> <p>Tuesday, December 13</p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p>6:00 pm Women and the Sacred Arts</p> <p>7:00 pm Black History Month coordinators</p> <p>Wednesday, December 14</p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>10:00 am TOWER assembly crew</p> <p>12:30 pm Wed. Women’s AA</p> <p>7:00 pm Session meeting</p>	<p>Thursday, December 15</p> <p>11:00 pm Burning River Brass rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p>6:00 pm Women and the Sacred Arts</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze</p> <p>7:00 pm GCC Delegates’ Assembly</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, December 16</p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon</p> <p>Saturday, December 17</p> <p>9:30 am Race and Inclusion Committee retreat (at Diana Woodbridge’s)</p> <p>Sunday, December 18</p> <p>8:30 Nominating Committee</p> <p>9:30 Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir followed by Descant Choir Activity Childcare for children thru Kdg</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP Children’s Worship Class (preK-K)</p> <p>12:15 Coffee and Fellowship Confirmation Mentor meeting</p> <p>5:00 Youth: Christmas party</p>
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Advent Art for Adults
Tuesday, Dec. 20, 6:30pm

Come to the Art Room for hot chocolate, conversation, and some holiday-themed crafts to adorn your living room.

Cover art: from Brenda Grauer's Advent Banner, used courtesy of
In Stitches: Center for Liturgical Art

Staff Emails

Rev. Lois Annich	Interim Assoc. Pastor	pastorannich@fhcpresb.org
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Rachel McDonald	Interim Assoc. Pastor	rachelm@fhcpresb.org
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Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: SUPPORTING
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE LEADERS

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “wondrous gift” of God with us. As we celebrate Christ’s coming, and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the Christmas Joy Offering provides a way for us to offer a gift in response. Half of the CJO supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders at historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges and through racial ethnic leadership development. The other half of the CJO honors those leaders who serve and have served us well. Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns, or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church they have served so well. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Three ways to give:

- 1. Contribute by putting cash or check in the offering. Use “Christmas Joy Offering” envelopes.
- 2. Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
- 3. Go to <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/cj999999/>

Poinsettia order form

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias @ \$10 each _____

Dedication (optional): In memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, to celebrate

Total owed: _____ (please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church, and write *poinsettia* in the memo line)



Luke 1: 46-55

The Bible is available in many translations, each of which offers its own language and, to some extent, its own interpretation.

Here are three for your reading pleasure.

King James Version

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

New International Version

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

God's Word Translation

Mary said, "My soul praises the Lord's greatness! My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior, because he has looked favorably on me, his humble servant. From now on, all people will call me blessed because the Almighty has done great things to me. His name is holy. For those who fear him, his mercy lasts throughout every generation. He displayed his mighty power. He scattered those who think too highly of themselves. He pulled strong rulers from their thrones. He honored humble people. He fed hungry people with good food. He sent rich people away with nothing. He remembered to help his servant Israel forever. This is the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants."

Are you feeling out of step with the holiday merrymaking?
Have you experienced a loss that makes
celebrating difficult?

All are welcome to join members and friends of
Forest Hill Church and the Church of the Saviour as we
light candles, remember our losses and griefs, and open
ourselves to the Hope that is present in Christ.



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

a quiet meditative service focusing on the light of
Christ shining forth in the darkness

Wednesday, Dec. 21 @ 7:00 pm

Church of the Saviour (Sanctuary)

2537 Lee Road, Cleve. Heights 216-321-8880

www.chsaviour.org

www.fhcpresb.org

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118

216-321-2660

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Email: office@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Rev. Lois Annich, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Rachel McDonald, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Anne Wilson, Director of Music

Kate Burleigh, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Shannon Headen, Dir. of Youth Ministries