

Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118

216-321-2660

Email: office@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Service of Worship
December 24, 2017 at 11:00 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.
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

May the curiosity of shepherds, sweetness of animals, songs of angels, wisdom of magi and innocence of a new-born babe remind us once more of God's faithfulness and love. Amen.

Welcome

Prelude

"The Little Drummer Boy"

Ryan Hidek

"Away in a Manger"

Margaret Dyck

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Elder Lia Clement, leader

Leader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent we watch and wait for Christ's coming!

People: Today we will light candles of hope, love, joy and peace.

The Youth will enter and light the four Advent candles as the congregation sings:

**All Sing: *While we are waiting, come. While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.***

Leader: Let us pray

All: Holy and glorious One, we have come to lift our voices in praise for the birth of your Son. We rejoice in his light which shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome. We give you thanks for your many gifts, especially your presence with us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*** Processional Carol No. 119**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

We confess, O God, that we expect no angel to speak to us. If this is our greatest sin, we are grateful. Make us ever conscious of how present you are with us—present with us, yet far beyond us. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison *(Lord, have mercy)*

J. S. Bach

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives
Assurance of Pardon

*** Response**

John Bell

“Be Still and Know”

5 Be still and know that I am God.

Be__ still and know__ that I__ am God.__

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody, starting with a '5' indicating a measure rest. The lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' are written below the notes. The second staff also includes a second line of lyrics: 'Be__ still and know__ that I__ am God.__' with underscores indicating where the notes fall.

The Christmas Pageant
Welcome and Opening Prayer Kate Burleigh
(Children choose a part to play: angel, shepherd, king, animal)

Part I: Mary and Joseph
Mary: Lyric Headen; Joseph: Frank Owusu

Luke 2: 1-6 read by Vaughn Ullom

Narration begins Kate Jaycox and Ryan Hidek

Carol No. 114 “Away in a Manger”

- St. 1 Descant Choir
- St. 2 Sarah Dillenbeck—soloist
- St. 3 The congregation sings:**
 - Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 - Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 - Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 - And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Part II: The Animals
Song 12th c. French carol
“The Friendly Beasts” Lara Troyer, soloist

Part III: The Angels

Carol No. 113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

St. 1 Descant Choir

St. 2 Margaret Dyck, soloist

St. 3 The congregation sings:

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Part IV: The Shepherds

Carol No. 135

“There’s a Star in the East”

Cassie Webster, cantor

Congregation sings words in bold:

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words,

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You'll forget your flocks;

You'll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Part V: The Three Kings

Carol No. 151

“We Three Kings”

St. 1-4 will be sung by the three kings

Cassie Webster, Vaughn Ullom, Henry Dyck

The congregation sings refrain after each stanza:

**O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!**

St. 5 All sing:

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.**

Refrain

Part VI: Conclusion

Carol No. 136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

St.1 Descant Choir

St. 2 and 3 All sing:

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain

**Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent our salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.**

Refrain

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

spiritual

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”
Beth Garrett, soprano

* 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 Carol No. 145

“What Child Is This”

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

“Sanctuary”

3 Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and

6 ho - ly, tried and true, With thanks -giv-ing, I'll be a

liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

* Passing of the Peace

“Noel No. 8”



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.

Notes & Announcements

Prayers are requested this week for: Joe and Betsy Andrews, Frances Barry, Max Harmon, David Hunter, Florence Klein, Wafa Kuri, Jeanette Nemcek, Mildred Sinkler, Jimmy Strong, Bob and Linda Uhle, and Stephen.

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

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: In December the whole congregation helps care for one another! Robin Mervine is the Deacon in charge – please say YES when she calls. The Mt. Sinai Care Group will serve in January.

Thank you to head usher Roger Heineman and today’s ushers. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining an usher team.

Coming Up

TODAY

We are grateful for today's instrumentalists: trumpeters Ahren Stock and Scott Lafferty; cellist Rachel Wilson.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: **Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 22-40.** **Bible and Bagels** will take this Wednesday off.

NEXT SUNDAY

Classes and choirs will not meet next Sunday, December 31. The regular schedule resumes January 7.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 2018 Homeless Stand Down is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, and once again FHC will field a morning team of personal shoppers. 20 slots are available for our team. If you'd like to join, follow the link below to the Hands-On Northeast Ohio site. Invitation code = JACK. You'll need to have an account with Hands-On in order to sign up. Note that a mandatory team training at FHC is also scheduled for 1/14, 12:30-1:30. More details later. Join us for a rewarding service experience at Public Auditorium and, later, for our customary fellowship lunch at Nighttown! If you have trouble signing up, please email Jack Breisch (jbrei@hawken.edu) who will send instructions to you directly.
http://www.handsonneo.org/HOC__partners?id=0011200001KEAhcAAH

Adult Education in January and February: Tom Zych and Kathryn Eloff will lead an examination of the Old Testament wisdom literature Ecclesiastes.

Staff Emails

Rev. Lois Annich	Interim Assoc. Pastor	pastorannich@fhcpresb.org
Becky Austin	Finance	beckya@fhcpresb.org
Lynda Bernays	Administration	office@fhcpresb.org
Kate Burleigh	Children	kateb@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	Building mgr.	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
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Shannon Headen	Youth	shannon@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Pastor	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Peg Weissbrod	Outreach	pegw@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org

Please pick up your printed TOWERS

**The TOWER is posted on the website
www.fhcpresb.org
for your reading pleasure**

Calendar: December 24-31, 2017

<p>Sunday, December 24: 4 Advent 9:00 am Child care begins 9:30 am Adult Education Youth Education: Logos (Mid Hi) Descant Choir 10:15 am Descant Choir activity 10:30 am Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 am WORSHIP: Christmas Pageant 12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve 10:45 pm Musical prelude 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship Milk and Cookies reception follows</p> <p>Monday, December 25: Christmas Office closed 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon CPNC meeting 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 26 Office closed 1:00 pm Abundance Pantry</p> <p>Wednesday, December 27 12:30 pm Wed. Women’s AA</p> <p>Thursday, December 28</p> <p>Friday, December 29 10:00 am Al Anon</p> <p>Sunday, December 31: 1 Christmas 10:30 am Child care begins 10:30 am Continental Breakfast 11:00 am WORSHIP 12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation</p>
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The wreaths on the front doors are a gift from the Hilltop Garden Club

Poinsettias are given by

Betsy and Joe Andrews in honor of Cooper, Cameron and Lexi Andrews and in memory of Martin Bradley Andrews

Lois Annich in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Russell W. Annich and Elizabeth Johnson Annich

Debbie Chapman and Lyn Hale in loving memory of Bill, Helen and Paul Chapman, and Marie Hale

Betty Clark in memory of Donald Clark and their parents

The Gifford-Pollack family: Merry Christmas!

Nancy Grube in memory of Donal T. Grube

Barbara Hansen in memory of Lamont Hansen and Ethel Van Fleet

Jenny & Caty Himmelman in memory of dear aunts Joanne Roliff and Barb Rothwell

Patricia Jenkins in thanksgiving for God's abundant gifts in 2016-2017

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

Carol Leslie in honor of good friends and families

Billie Little in memory of Verna and Bill Bidelman

Sue and Kerri McCauley in memory of Sue's fiancé John Allen, her sister Joanne Gorecki, and her parents Dale and Eloise Wint

Robin Mervine in memory of Mel Mervine

Clyde and Karen Loughridge in honor of their families

Charlotte and John McCumber in memory of Bill and Kay Currie

Linda and David Rainey in memory of Marjorie Rainey, Erma and Daryl Knepper, and Sandra Draughon

Marjorie Ravas in memory of Dorothy Turick

Anne and Jeff Smith in honor of our dear friend Leonor for her courage and love

Carolyn Smith in memory of her parents Robert and Grace Sloan and Dr. Dwight and Josephine Smith

Kathy and Derry Stauffer

Eileen Vizcaino in honor of the Forest Hill Church Sanctuary movement

Virginia Weiss and Stephen Sedam in honor of Leonor Garcia and her family, and in memory of Erica Weiss

The Weissbrod – Marunowski families in thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Forest Hill Church and in memory of Ray Weissbrod

Michael and Sharon Wiggins and family, in memory of parents the Rev. Robert and Cecelia Nelson

Dene Young in memory of loved ones

This letter was sent to all FHC members and friends this past week

Dear Members and Leaders of Forest Hill Church,

Lois and I invite you to a vitally important training on race and class on **Sunday, January 7th from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.** Led by the dynamic racial equity training Ms. Erica Merritt (co-founder and partner of EQUIS) we will explore the dynamics of the issues of race and class at Forest Hill.

All are welcome! If you have just joined the church you may be particularly interested.

CHURCH LEADERS ARE EXPECTED! If you serve on a Ministry, volunteer in any capacity (at the Pantry, Labre, Habitat, serve lunch, answer phones, teach a class), serve on a committee (Black History, Race Inclusion, Black Caucus and/or consider yourself a leader of this church) or are part of the choir or social group you are invited. As leaders of the church it is important for us to be educated and to lead the congregation as we grow towards becoming the Beloved Community.

Of course Lois and I understand how busy we all are. However, we hope you will make every effort to attend. Please **USE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION** that was in the emails this week to let us know that you can attend.

RSVP to the office **ONLY** if you are unable to register online.

Thank you and God bless you!

Pastors John Lentz and Lois Annich



The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indescribable gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders—past, present, and future.

50% provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need

- Support grants that help retired church workers and their families with financial and housing needs
- Provide aid to church workers with urgent financial and medical needs

50% supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools

- Give scholarships for racial ethnic students and future church leaders
- Equip racial ethnic leaders for ministry
- Support vital ministries in Presbyterian-related schools

Ways to give:

1. Give to the offering at Forest Hill Church (envelopes provided in the pews)
2. Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
3. presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

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