

# Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



*Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming*  
3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118 216-321-2660 Website:  
[www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

*Service of Worship*  
*December 10, 2017 at 11:00 am*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

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.

*Centering Words*

Christmas is near at hand. But do we truly believe Christ is coming soon? Do we yearn for the day when faithful love and truth shall meet, when righteousness and peace shall kiss? Will we prepare our hearts to receive the coming miracle? It is time to get ready.

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

“Away in a Manger”

Cherub Choir; Lisa Koops, director

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**The Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Beth Garrett, leader

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

**People: This Advent we will light candles of hope, love, joy and peace. Today we light the candles of hope and love.**

*The Advent family –Mark, Lisa, Sydney and Capri Gerteis – will enter and light the first two candles as the congregation sings:*

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

Leader: Let us pray

**All: Guide us through this season of anticipation and love, that we might lift our voices in laughter and song. Make our paths straight, that we might boldly move forward as we prepare for your arrival. Amen.**

**\* Processional Hymn No. 88**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**St. 1: Jack Lentz, solo**

**St. 5: choir**

**St. 6-7: All stand and sing**

*\*please stand if able*

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**Prayer of Confession**

Shannon Headen

**God of shepherding love, we need your guidance this day. You proclaim that faithful love and truth have met, but we do not see it. You rejoice that righteousness and peace have kissed, but we can scarcely believe it. Forgive our jaded hearts, and correct our wandering ways. Breathe your grace into our lives, and give us the confidence to shout for all the world to hear: “Here is our God!”**

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Kyrie eleison** (*Lord, have mercy*)

Craig Phillips

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff is in C major and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have'. The second staff is in D major and contains the lyrics 'mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.'.

*Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\* Response**

**"Be Still and Know"**

*All sing first time. Second time: low voices, begin;  
high voices enter two measures later.*

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 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff starts at measure 5 and contains the lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.'. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.'.

**Anthem**

arr. John Bell

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

# *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

## **We Welcome New Members**

**\* Hymn No. 89**

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

**Congregation sings refrain**

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

### **Scripture 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.”

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“In Your Lap”

**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**

Paul Rudoj and Thad Fiscella

**"Hope and Quietly Wait"**

### **\* 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. 95**

**"Prepare the Way of the Lord"**

### **\* Commission and Blessing**

## \* Choral Benediction



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

*Postlude*

J. S. Bach

“Come, Savior of the Gentiles”



*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](http://www.fhcpresb.org), for a list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and past sermon texts and audio.



## *Notes & Announcements*

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

**Prayers are requested this week for:** Joe and Betsy Andrews, Frances Barry, Max Harmon, David Hunter, Florence Klein, Wafa Kuri, the LaGuardia family, Barb Lind, Jeanette Nemcek, George Sentell, Jimmy Strong, Bob and Linda Uhle, Pat Weissbrod, 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, and 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:** In December the whole congregation helps care for one another! Robin Mervine is the Deacon in charge – please say YES when she calls.

**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.

**New members:** Please welcome these new member of Forest Hill Church: Angela and Bader Boland, Kylie Evans and Adam Majot, and Sue and Kerri McCauley.

## *Coming Up*

### **TODAY**

***Amahl and the Night Visitors:*** This afternoon at 4 pm is the final performance of this 50-minute Christmas opera, performed by a fully costumed cast that includes 10-year-old Henry Dyck as Amahl (to whom a miracle happens!), Lara Troyer as his mother, Jack Lentz as the page, Devyn Etling as the dancer, and Carl Jenks, Mist'a Craig and Frank Ward as the Kings. The Chancel Choir will be the local peasants. This is a great family-friendly musical experience. Invite friends!

***Thanks to the Advent trumpeters,*** Ahren Stock and Scott Lafferty.

### **THIS WEEK**

***Bible Study:*** The lessons for this week are: **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

***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*** This Advent, we are reading ***An Adult Christ at Christmas*** by Raymond Brown for our Sunday morning Adult Education sessions. Next week: Luke 2: 1-40.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

***Longest Night Service, Wednesday Dec. 20, 7 pm:*** Are you dreading Christmas because of losses, burdens or disappointments? Pastor Lois and the pastoral staff of Church of the Saviour invite you to join our two congregations in a worship service that acknowledges human pain and God's consolation. Come to Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights for a service of scripture, song, and communion that will remind you of God's presence and love. The "Longest Night" takes place

just before the light returns. We look forward to sharing this time of reflection and comfort with you.

***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](http://www.handsonneo.org/HOC__partners?id=0011200001KEAhcAAH)

### *Youth News*

***Every Sunday:*** Logos (Mid High) meets from 9:30 – 10:30 am in the Ruah Room.

***Today*** Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse in the chapel immediately after worship.

4 pm: House Church (Sharon Shumaker's) and Christmas Party

## *Staff Emails*

Rev. Lois Annich	Interim Assoc. Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorannich@fhcpresb.org"><u>pastorannich@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Becky Austin	Finance	<a href="mailto:beckya@fhcpresb.org"><u>beckya@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Lynda Bernays	Administration	<a href="mailto:office@fhcpresb.org"><u>office@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Kate Burleigh	Children	<a href="mailto:kateb@fhcpresb.org"><u>kateb@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Ann Donkin	Building mgr.	<a href="mailto:adonkin@fhcpresb.org"><u>adonkin@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Stavros Gazis	Custodial	<a href="mailto:office@fhcpresb.org"><u>office@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Shannon Headen	Youth	<a href="mailto:shannon@fhcpresb.org"><u>shannon@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org"><u>pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Peg Weissbrod	Outreach	<a href="mailto:pegw@fhcpresb.org"><u>pegw@fhcpresb.org</u></a>
Anne Wilson	Music	<a href="mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org"><u>annew@fhcpresb.org</u></a>

*Calendar: December 10 - 17, 2017*

<p><b>Sunday, December 10: 2 Advent</b>              8:30 am Nominating Committee              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                  Cherub Choir                  Session and New Members meet              11:00 am WORSHIP                  Children's Worship class              11:15 am Pathways to the Promise Land              12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation                  Sine Nomine Choir                  Black Caucus mtg              4:00 pm <b><i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i></b>                  Youth: House Church                                  and Christmas party              5:00 Faith Leader</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 13</b>              7:30 am Bible &amp; Bagels              12:30 pm Wed. Women's AA              6:10 pm Building &amp; Grounds mtg              7:00 pm Ministry meetings</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 14</b>              6:20 pm Voices in Bronze              7:00 pm GCC Housing meeting              7:30 pm Chancel Choir                  FH Swim Club meeting</p> <p><b>Friday, December 15</b>              10:00 am Al Anon              4:00 pm Wedding rehearsal              7:00 pm Staff party</p> <p><b>Saturday, December 16</b>              8:00 am Men's Group              3:00 pm Wedding &amp; Reception</p>
<p><b>Monday, December 11</b>              6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)              7:00 pm Al Anon                  CPNC meeting              7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #403                  Borton Group (AA)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 12</b>              1:00 pm Abundance Pantry              5:00 pm Fitness Fusion              7:15 pm Black History Team mtg</p>	<p><b>Sunday, December 17: 3 Advent</b>              8:30 am Nominating Committee              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                  Cherub Choir              11:00 am WORSHIP:                  Festival of Lessons and Carols                  Children's Worship class              12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation                  Blood pressure check              5:00 Faith Leader</p>



HOLA Ohio - PO BOX 3066,

Ashtabula, OH, 44005 -

[holatoday.org](http://holatoday.org)

December 1, 2017

Dear friends,

During this season of faith, charity, and goodwill, many of our local immigrant families will spend the holidays in great fear and sadness, with an empty seat at their dinner tables. An ominous shift in our nation's policies has resulted in mothers and fathers being apprehended, detained, and deported, leaving children in anguish and families destroyed.

This holiday season we must reflect: What kind of country do we want America to be? Currently, agents of our broken immigration system are abducting, imprisoning, and deporting in record numbers law-abiding immigrants who have long worked in our fields and factories, purchased homes, paid their taxes, and raised their American-born children here. This does not represent our country or our values.

Esperanza, a married mother of four teenage U.S. citizen daughters, was recently deported after living in Painesville for over 20 years. She worked in a local factory full-time, but was known as a good cook and for the warm environment she created in her home every Sunday as people from far and wide came for her homemade tortillas and Mexican stews.

On Thanksgiving she was not home cooking for her family, but was miles away in a migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, a dangerous border town where U.S. immigration officials secretly transported her in shackles, and dropped her alone at night with no money, no identification, and not even a call to her family or lawyer so that they could arrange for her safety. Meanwhile, her teenage daughters will be forced to cope without her. They are one example of countless families living through this nightmare.

For nearly two decades, HOLA has worked to protect and support our immigrant workers and their families. Through a combination of grassroots organizing, advocacy, education, and legal assistance, HOLA has won the release of mothers and fathers from unjust detentions, stopped their deportations, and helped put many on a path to legal status.

Your support is vital. These times are much more challenging. Please consider making a gift of \$50 or more to HOLA so we may continue working to ensure our country lives up to its values. During this season of giving, I give thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Veronica Isabel Dahlberg  
Executive Director  
HOLA Ohio

## Poinsettia orders

**There's still time to order poinsettias for the sanctuary!  
Because the growers were affected by the hurricanes in Texas this fall,  
poinsettias are in short supply and are more expensive.**

You may order one or more by providing the following information to the office, or using the form that was provided in the Wednesday email news.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

How many poinsettias at \$17 each? \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication (in honor of, in memory of, in thanksgiving for)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount owed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to take the poinsettia(s) home or donate it/them to be taken to a shut-in? \_\_\_\_\_

*Cover image: Advent Candles by the artist Stushie. Used with permission.*

## *Advent and Christmas at Forest Hill Church*

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 pm: ***Amahl and the Night Visitors***

Sunday, Dec. 17, 11 am: **Service of Lessons and Carols**

Weds., Dec. 20, 7 pm: ***Longest Night* service at Church of the Saviour**

Sunday, Dec. 24, 11 am: **Worship and Christmas Pageant**  
***(note new time for pageant)***

Sunday, Dec. 24, 11 pm: **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship**

**The Christmas Eve worship service is followed by a milk and cookies reception. We need donations of cookies!**

**Please bring cookies to the church kitchen on Sunday Dec. 24 – morning or evening – they will be arranged and served after the candlelight worship.**



*Homemade or store-bought, one dozen or many – all contributions are welcome!*