Forest Hill Church presbyterian



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Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastor Anne Wilson, Director of Music Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

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Service of Worship: 4 Advent Christmas Pageant December 23, 2018 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 large print editions of the bulletin and directions to our nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

The goodness of creation, as stated in the beginning when God looked on all that had been made and called it very good, was affirmed in the Incarnation with God's at-oneness with humanity.

Welcome

Greeting Our God with Joy Children's Moment

Rev. David Wigger

Lighting t	he Advent Candles	Adapted from Is
Leader:	In this season for reconciliation,	
Children:	we light this candle in pain and in peac	ce,
	as a reminder of the coming light of Ch	nrist.
Adults: As the Holy One has promised, in		s to come
	God will give you a sign.	
	Look, the young woman is with child.	
Children:	She will have a son	
	and call him: "God-is-with-us"	
All:	In anguish and in peace	

Children light the Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace Candles.

let us walk in the light of the Holy One. Amen.

Children return to their families until the Pageant.

Adapted from Isa. 7:14

* Hymn No. 113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*please stand if able

Renewing Our Relationship with God

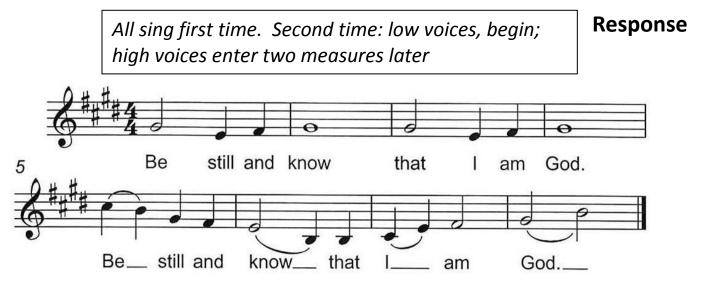
Prayer of Confession Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr. God of peace, the Incarnation calls us to reconcile with God and with one another. Yet we forget that unity is both a gift and an obligation. We confess that we become distracted from the *active* waiting of Advent. In your love, forgive us. Help us experience, practice, and pursue community with one another, as we together come to know the depth of the love of Christ. Amen.

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar (10.3)

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



Hymn No. 145

"What Child Is This"

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Christmas Pageant: "Tomorrow Starts Today"

script and original songs by Sue Matsui adapted by Anne Wilson and David Wigger

Cast				
Prophet	Rowan Trammell			
Little Child	Cassie Webster			
Mother	Laura Minder			
Landlord	Carl Jenks			
Pastor	John Lentz			
Narrators	Noel and Vaughn Ullom, Colin Webster			
Gabriel	Berkeley Trammell			
Mary	Margaret Dyck			
Joseph	Will Janssen			
Elizabeth	Sarah Dillenbeck			
Shepherdess	Capri Gerteis			
Baby Jesus	Mary Elizabeth Allen			
Holy Spirit	Megan Allen			
Singing Trio	Olivia Sormaz, Charlotte Piszel,			
	Chip Vandall			

Additional assistance Kate Burleigh, Laurie Logan, Jessica Kelley, Sandy and Kaylee Moran

"Prepare a Road for the Lord"

Rowan Trammell, solo

"They Take My Food"

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

"There's a Star in the East"

"Long Ago, A Baby Was Born"

"Tomorrow Starts Today"

Following the pageant, children return to their families. Young children may be taken to the Nursery.



Christmas pageant 2017

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

Mack Wilberg

"One December, Bright and Clear"

* Response

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be, All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

* Prayer of Dedication

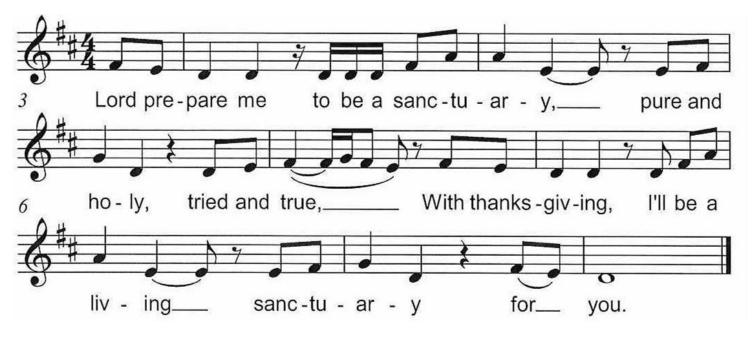
Going Forth to Live as God's People

* Closing Hymn No. 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

* Commission and Blessing

Leader: ...(*ending with*) Tomorrow starts today, tomorrow starts today. All: Merry Christmas!

* Choral Benediction



* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

Louis Daquin

"Noel No. 8"

Today's pageant is possible only because of the work and support offered by parents and staff of Forest Hill Church. Thank you to all involved!

Welcome Vísítors!

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: Nan Dorer, Dan Fuller, Max Harmon, David Hunter, Kemp Jaycox, Jane Larsen-Wigger, Elizabeth Shaw, Jimmy Strong, Wesley Washington, and Ollie.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Judy Sieck, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, 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: The All-Church Care Group is responsible for assisting the clergy in 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. The Mt. Sinai Care Group will assist in January.

Thank you to Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales, head ushers, and today's usher team.

Coming Up

 Dec. 24, 10:45 pm Musical Prelude, followed by Candlelight Worship Milk and cookie reception following
Dec. 30 after worship: Bring your favorite dish for a casual Christmas Potluck

TODAY

Thanks to our Advent trumpeters, Ahren Stock and Scott Lafferty.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52

Bible and Bagels will not meet on December 26. The group will meet (at 7:30 am) on January 2. The lessons for January 2 are Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 2019 Homeless Stand Down: All volunteers, please come to an orientation next Sunday, December 30 at 12:30 in the library.

Adult Education in January: The Revelation to John

There will be three classes available for the next Kerygma series, the book of Revelation. On Sunday mornings at 9:30, there will be a class with Laury Larson and Pat Jenkins in the library, and a class with Tom Zych and Kathryn Eloff in South Hall. Ann and Peter Williams will lead an evening class on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. Pat Seeders will do registration for the classes every Sunday in December in South Hall after worship. Resource books are available for \$24.00. Dr. Timothy Beal,

author of **The Book of** *Revelation***: A Biography,** will be a guest speaker (date to be announced later).

Staff Emails

Lynda Bernays Delilah Dervic Ann Donkin Stavros Gazis Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr. Peg Weissbrod David Wigger Anne Wilson

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The church office will be closed from noon on Dec. 24 –Dec. 26, and on Dec. 31 – Jan. 1. If a pastoral emergency occurs during these times, please contact Rev. David Wigger, 216-702-7845 or <u>ce@fhcpresb.org</u>

Curdey December 22, 4 Advent Tuesday December 25, Christmes De			
Sunday, December 23: 4 Advent	Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day		
9:15 Childcare begins	Office closed		
9:30 Adult Education			
Descant and Sine Nomine Choirs	Wednesday, December 26		
and other pageant players	Office closed		
10:30 Chancel Choir	4:00 pm Kwanzaa Party		
Continental Breakfast			
11:00 Worship: Christmas Pageant	Thursday, December 27		
12:00 Coffee and Conversation	4:00 pm ICE vigil		
Monday, December 24	Friday, December 28		
6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection	10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand		
7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There's Hope			
7:30 pm AA: Borton Group	Sunday, December 30: 1 Christmas		
10:45 pm Christmas Eve Musical prelude	9:15 Childcare begins		
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship	10:30 Continental Breakfast		
12:15 pm Milk and cookies in	11:00 Worship		
Fellowship Hall	12:00 Christmas Potluck		
	Homeless Stand Down orientation		

Donations of cookies are needed for the reception following the Christmas Eve service.

Please drop them off in the kitchen

as you arrive.



Please take note: Labre is no longer accepting clothing donations for Our Family Home Center (they have run out of space!). Please take your donations elsewhere.

Here are a few options:

Goodwill at 6605 Mayfield Rd or 2720 Van Aken Blvd

Purple Heart: Schedule a pickup by going to http://veteranpickup.org/

The poinsettias are given by

Betsy and Joe Andrews in memory of Martin Bradley Andrews Chris and Dave Bell in celebration of family The Cameron family in loving memory of Ann Cameron and all our loved ones Deborah Chapman and Lyn Hale in memory of loved ones Betty Clark in memory of the Clark and Fritz families 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 beloved family The Katan family in memory of Richard and Marjorie Sprague and Fred and Clara Sturtevant Cliff and Jane Kowall in memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul and Dorothy Kowall Carol Leslie in honor of Carter Hugh and Gavin Bruce Strachan, Jackson Taylor Richards and baby boy Macklin Peg Weissbrod and Steve Marunowski in memory of Ray and Pat Weissbrod

Sue and Kerri McCauley in memory of Sue's parents Dale and Eloise Wint, her sister Joanne Gorecki, and her fiancé John Allen Charlotte and John McCumber and family, in loving memory of Bill and Kay Currie Robin Mervine in memory of Mel Mervine Jeanette Nemcek in memory of Bob Nemcek Linda and David Rainey in thanksgiving for family Marjorie Ravas in memory of her parents, E. J. and Dorothy Rieck Anne and Jeff Smith in honor of our very good friends at Forest Hill Church Carolyn Smith in memory of Robert and Grace Sloan and Dr. and Mrs. Dwight C. Smith The Smith-Polderman and Zednik families in celebration of Caroline Jane Zednik Dene Young in memory of loved ones

The wreaths on the front doors are a gift from the Hilltop Garden Club

Cover image by Julia Koops, age 7

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 (mark your check or envelope "Christmas Joy")

2. Text JOY to 56512 to give \$10

3. presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

Recent graduate of Presbyterian Pan Am School wants to tackle issues that confront the developing world *By Pat Cole | Presbyterian News Service, Dec. 5 2018*

LOUISVILLE — Growing up in Rwanda, Joshua Karangwa often saw rural women and children carrying heavy cans of water on their heads for miles, just so their families could survive.

His memory of people engaged in this back-breaking endeavor pierces his heart and challenges his mind. Karangwa, a 2018 graduate of <u>Presbyterian Pan American</u>



<u>School</u>(Pan Am) in Kingsville, Texas, wants to tackle water accessibility and other issues that confront the developing world. He is now a first-year engineering student at Presbyterian-related Schreiner University.

Karangwa dreams of the day when women and children will no longer have to tote large water cans, whose average weight exceeds 40 pounds when filled. The task is exhausting and can lead to strained backs, shoulders and necks.

"It's an issue that I want to address by using all the means I have acquired," Karangwa says. He wants not only to design ways to make water more accessible, but also to help communities learn how to find their own solutions to problems like poor accessibility to water.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s <u>Christmas Joy Offering</u> helps Pan Am and other Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color prepare future leaders like Karangwa to serve the church and society. Half of the offering supports the schools, and the other half provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need.

At Pan Am, Karangwa experienced a school committed to meeting his academic and spiritual needs. He says that when he came to Pan Am, reading was an arduous task and he "couldn't finish a book." An intensive reading program at the school changed all of that. "They got me reading lots of books and now I enjoy books," he says. "It's a completely different view than what I had."

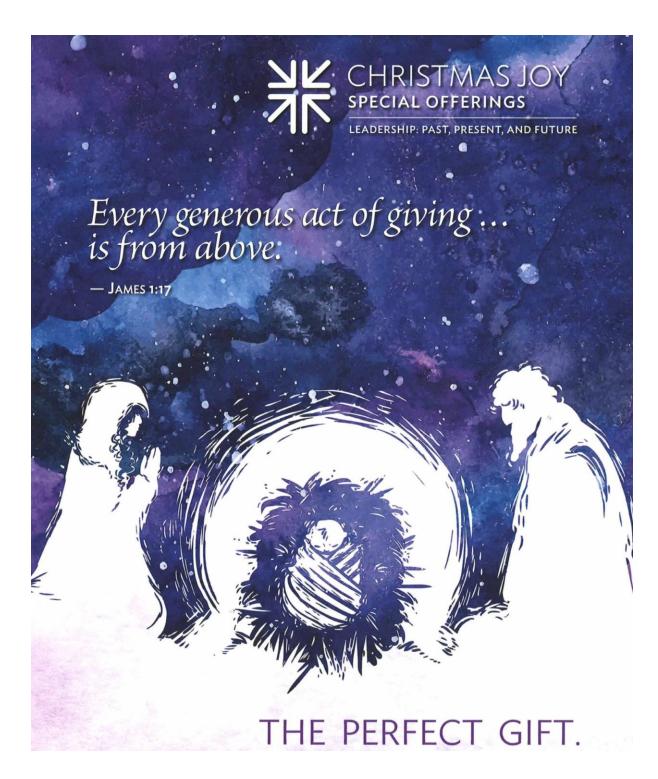
While at Pan Am, Karangwa enrolled in dual-credit courses at the Texas A&M's Kingsville campus, where he studied mathematics, English, economics and political science. His academic record enabled him to receive a full, four-year scholarship to Schreiner.

Karangwa says his faith began to flourish at Pan Am. He grew up in a Christian family, but he says Pan Am helped him "to find faith on my own." He relished discovering the different ways the diverse student body at Pan Am interpreted the Bible. "It helped me grow in a lot of ways, and it added perspective to my faith," he says.

A well-rounded student, Karangwa participated in three varsity sports — basketball, track and soccer. He was also a student ambassador. In this role, he visited congregations and shared his story and that of Pan Am.

As a student ambassador, he says he especially enjoyed learning from people in the congregations. "Most of them were from an older generation, and they have knowledge to share," he says. "It was a fun experience."

Karangwa says his character grew as he listened and learned from others while at Pan Am. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering helped shape his character, and continued support will shape the lives of more students, as well as support church workers and their families in times of need.



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or to donate

Go to presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy