

# *Forest Hill Church Communion Service*

*January 3, 2021 at 11:00 am*

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/VyWuBycZEOE>

## *Centering Words*

*Light shines in the darkness.  
A star guides our way to the Christ child.  
Hope is born again.*

## PRELUDE

Max Reger

*Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*  
Ben Malkevitch, keyboardist

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHORAL INTROIT

Billie Hanks Jr.

*Lonely Voices Crying in the City*  
Caleb Wright, soloist

## *Greeting Our God with Joy*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise; shine, for your light has come! **We are called out of our darkness into light!**

Lift up your eyes and look around. **We rejoice in the gift of light.**

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace. **We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate. Let us worship the living God!**

## HYMN NO. 230

*"Joyful is the Dark"*

1 Joyful is the dark,  
holy, hidden God,  
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming,  
majesty in darkness,  
energy of love,  
Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.  
3 Joyful is the dark,  
shadowed stable floor;  
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,  
as with exultation,  
Mary, giving birth,  
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.  
5 Joyful is the dark  
depth of love divine,  
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,  
holy, haunting beauty,  
living, loving God.  
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around, bombarded by news of the pandemic and the cacophony of competing political voices. Our world is filled with injustice and oppression. All these things can overwhelm and paralyze us. But you call us to be people of the light. Help us to shine your light of righteousness, peace and justice into all the dark places of our lives and world.

*Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

As certain as the dawn follows the night, so is the promise of God’s forgiveness and love for us all. Arise and Shine! You are forgiven. Follow the star.

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le -

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia A - men

-lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia A - men A - men

**ANTHEM**

Leonard Bernstein

*A Simple Song*  
Caleb Wright, soloist

*Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word*

**THE LIVING WORD**

**John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

*After the readings*

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Ms. Amanda Horan

*Opening the Door*

Amanda Horan is a Candidate in the ordination process under the care of Forest Hill Church. She is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where she obtained a Master of Divinity degree as well as a Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry. Before entering seminary, she served as the Director of Christian Education at a PC (USA) church in Tempe, AZ. She currently is serving as a Clinical Pastoral Education Resident at St. Vincent’s Charity Medical Center in Cleveland.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.**

**FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

To participate in our online Friendship Register, please leave a comment in the Live Chat box listing the names of those participating in this morning's Live Worship or email the office.

**OFFERING**

Giving and Offering is available by texting: 216-400-5300  
Or you may give online: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/give/online/>  
You may also mail a check to the church office.

**OFFERTORY**

Stephen Schwartz

*Beautiful City*  
Caleb Wright, soloist

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

Ron Mallory

*Where Waters Flow*  
Ben Malkevitch, keyboardist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious and loving God, you have come in the flesh, you have shown your light, you have fed us with your very being. Thank you! We go out to serve now, following the star and bringing good news to all the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 203 (AAHH)

Messiah Now Has Come

1 From His throne above.  
The King of Love Came down to set us free.  
With His gift of life, He sacrificed  
From a manger to a tree.  
**Refrain:**  
So we sing, we sing, the heavens ring,  
Hail God’s annointed One!  
Now -ell, Now-ell, glad  
Tidings tell, Messiah now has come!  
2 In His life we find New hope sublime,  
His Kingdom will fulfill God’s mandate for peace,  
All conflicts ceased, On earth only goodwill. **[Refrain]**  
3 In the hearts of all, Salvation’s call Is answered ever more.  
God’s redemption tale, Emmanuel, We worship and adore. **[Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Guy Sebastian

Climb Every Mountain  
Caleb Wright, soloist



FHC NOTES

Prayer Requests:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) or Pastor Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week’s congregational prayer. Please direct all prayer concerns that arise between Friday and Sunday morning to the Pastor’s on-call phone line (216-319-3596). The on-call phone is operational after office hours on weekdays and Saturday through Sunday morning.

Prayers are requested this week for:

Melanie Alban, Barbara Bodzin, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Stavros Gazis, the family of Carol King-Himmelsteib (Kathryn Himmelsteib), Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Carolyn Smith, Kitty McWilliams, and Susan Way.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

**Care Group: The Eden Care Group** will assist our pastors with members’ needs in **January**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **Care Group leader, Deanne Lentz ([deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org))**.

**Thank you, all office volunteers:** Lynda Bernays, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Ellen McChesney.

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **January 14 (for the February TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

**Bible and Bagels (Bible Study)** discusses next Sunday's texts on Wednesday mornings (virtually) from 7:30-8:30 am. The lessons for this week are: **Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11**.

**3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118**

**Office: 216-321-2660      Fax: 216-320-1214**

**Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596**

**Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257**

**Email: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org)      Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)**

**Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors**

**Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries**

**Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music**

**Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate**