

*Forest Hill Church Service of Worship  
3rd Sunday in Advent  
Lessons and Carols*

*December 13, 2020 at 11:00 am*

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/adpw9CDwHXA>

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

**PRELUDE**

*Once in Royal David's City*

Henry and Margaret Dyck

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Jaycox/Fink Family

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us:  
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.  
Amen.**

*The Festival of Lessons and Carols*

*Lesson I*

**VISION OF A PEACEABLE KINGDOM**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness on them light has shined

**Let us come into the light of God, our hope in the darkness.**

--Isaiah 9:2

**SOLO**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Featuring Lara Troyer

**READING**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**CAROL 123**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.  
5 For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Lesson II*

**CHRIST’S BIRTH FORETOLD**

**READING**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**PRAYER OF YEARNING**

Come, our Light, **and illumine our darkness.**  
Come, our Life, **and revive us from death.**  
Come, our Physician, **and heal our wounds.**  
Come, Flame of divine love, **and burn up the thorns of our sins,**  
**kindling our hearts with the flame of your love.**

--Dimitrii of Rostov

**CAROL 87**

*Comfort, Comfort My People*

1 “Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!” So says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To my people now proclaim  
that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
and their warfare now is over.”  
2 For the herald’s voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
and the hills bow down in greeting.

*Lesson III*

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAVIOR’S BIRTH**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.  
**For the Lord God is my strength and my might; and has become my salvation.**                      --Isaiah 12:2

**READING**

**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.”

**SOLO**

Arr. Roland Carter

*My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord*  
Malina Rauschenfels, soprano

*Lesson IV*

**THE SAVIOR IS BORN**

I will give you as light to the nations,  
**That my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.**                      --Isaiah 49:6b

READING

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

OFFERTORY

*Gifts for Immanuel*  
Henry Dyck, Margaret Dyck and Lara Troyer

*Lesson V*

THE STAR APPEARS

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
**Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe the Son of Mary!** *--Traditional English Ballad*

CAROL 147

*The First Nowell*

1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
**Refrain:**  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.  
2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **[Refrain]**

READING

Matthew 2:1-6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing:  
“Glory, glory, glory!”  
Let the heavens ring.  
(Repeat)

Lesson VI

ARISE, SHINE; FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**  
For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
**But the Lord will arise upon you, and God’s glory will appear over you.** -- Isaiah 60:1-2

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!  
**Refrain:**  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!  
3 Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! **[Refrain]**  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **[Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

READING

John 1:1-14

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. Renewing Our Relationship with 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.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD, AND BLESSING Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

“Shift Happens”

CAROL 127 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
(Jesus the Light of the World)*

1 Hark! the herald angels sing.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King,  
Jesus, the light of the world.

**Refrain:**

We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
O, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
2 Joyful all you nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.

Jesus, the light of the world. **[Refrain]**

4 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world. **[Refrain]**

POSTLUDE

*Snowflake Reel*  
OPUS 216



*FHC NOTES*

**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:**

Did you know our church offers online giving and text-to-give? They’re easy to use and secure! 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.

**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, Kiva Bohanon, Kathy Cameron, Graham Creasey, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Lillian Houser, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Kitty McWilliams, Susan Way, Peg Weissbrod and Steve Marunowski, the family of Doris Brandt (her daughter and grandson, Cindy and Jon Newton), and the family of Dick Peterjohn.

**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 All Church Care Group*** will assist our pastors with members' needs in **December**. 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, Elaine Turley ([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 **December 17 (for the January 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: **2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1: 46b-55; Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16: 25-27; Luke 1:26-38**.

**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**



# CHRISTMASTIME

*Thank you to the animals who appeared in "Gifts for Immanuel" - Nolan Baldwin, Amelia Dolan, Clementine and Violet Evans Majot, and Augie Stier.*

*FHC please welcome our guest violist: Jeanelle Brierley and guest cello player: Malina Rauschenfels.*