

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship
2nd Sunday in Advent
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
December 6, 2020 at 11:00 am*

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream (**NOTE THAT THIS IS A NEW LINK**):

https://youtu.be/j4wykM_fKBw

Centering Words

*Wilderness, exile, tribulation, rejoicing:
Your way runs through all of these, O God.
May we prepare this way anew.*

PRELUDE

Arr. Duane Funderburk

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Virginia Weiss, mezzo-soprano
Seth Ungemach, tenor

Greeting Our God with Joy

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Garrett Family

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

HYMN NO. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set they people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes we are not ready for things to be made new. Forgive us. We are cluttered and our vision is dim. Help us, God, to imagine the new earth that you envision for our world. Help us see ourselves in it. Give us wisdom and courage to hasten the coming of your day.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF PARDON

God speaks gently, words of comfort: “You are my beloved children. You are forgiven.” So be it.

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

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

5

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

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

ANTHEM

What We Want for Christmas Is Peace
Virginia Weiss, mezzo-soprano

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!” ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

After the reading

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

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

Dona Nobis Pacem
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eucharist: The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Edward MacDowell

To a Wild Rose Op. 51/1
Irwin Shung, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come. With power and glory, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

P. Tchaikovsky

Nutcracker



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: 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).

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.

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: **Isa. 61: 1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28**