

*Forest Hill Church:  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday*

*December 4, 2022 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3j7NPmbI7c>

*\*Please stand if able*

*Centering Words*

*From EXPECTANT: Verses for Advent by Jim Cotter*

*"O come, O come, thou David's key, unlock the gates and set us free.*

*Descendant of the king of old, release us from oppression's hold.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! In words that sing*

*True liberty shall soon take wing."*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Jacques Berthier

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Chancel Choir

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lia Clement, Leslie Clement, Mya and Mason Foster

**The Lighting of the Advent Candle (The Peace candle)**

Reader 1: In a world where so many experience violence,

God lights a candle of peace in our hearts.

We wait together for a Savior,

who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord:

Reader 2: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1: 78, 79

**Sing: "O come, O come, thou living word, and pierce our hearts with healing sword,**

**From God's own mouth proceeding far to lance the fest'ring wounds of war.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! To mend our strife shall come in flesh the God of life."**

**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. Amen.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 87**

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

## *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ comes as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasure we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the sea. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in this world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **TIME OF SILENCE**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **\*GLORIA**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

### **CHILDREN'S WELCOME**

Amy Wheatley

*Children will leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.*

### **ANTHEM**

Charles Gounod

Chancel Choir

Madelaine Matej, soprano soloist

“Lovely Appear”

[Chorus]

Lovely appear over the mountains, the feet of them that preach, and bring good news of peace.

[Soprano solo]

Ye mountains, ye perpetual hills, bow ye down.

Over the barren wastes shall flowers now have possession.

Dark shades of ancient days, full of hate and oppression,

In the brightness of joy, fade away and are gone.

In this age, truly blest more than ages preceding,

Shall the corn never fall from the plentiful ground;

Under the shining sky shall the lambs gaily bound:

Void of fear, undisturbed, safely shall they be feeding,

Then the timorous birds, e'en the turtle dove meek,

Shall not fear any more than the hawk's merciless beak.

[Chorus]

Lovely appear over the mountains, the feet of them that preach, and bring good news of peace.

Ye mountains, ye perpetual hills, bow ye down.

Over the barren wastes shall flowers now have possession.

Dark shades of ancient days, full of hate and oppression,

In the brightness of joy, fade away and are gone.

## *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

### **THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)**

#### **Isaiah 11:1-9**

Dean Sieck

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.

### **Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' " Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### *After the readings*

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

Rev. Sally Wile

### **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

Joel Raney

“What We All Want for Christmas is Peace”

What we all want for Christmas is some time to be with friends, love for all the children, broken hearts to mend, for the hungry to be fed, for the lost to find their way, for the kindness of a stranger to brighten our day, for the suffering to end, for the fighting all to cease. What we all want for Christmas is peace.

What we all want for Christmas is a purpose and a plan, time to spend with family, strength to lend a hand, a path that's straight and wide, with God's light to show the way, to feel his love surround us on a cold and lonely day, for the suffering to end, for the fighting all to cease. What we all want for Christmas is peace.

To wake up Christmas morning and know the world is safe; to go to sleep at night and know we're free; to realize our hopes and dreams, to watch our children play, to feel the arms of God around us everyday, everyday. What we need for Christmas is the precious gift of love, born this Christmas day, a gift from God above; for the Prince of Peace came down, so the fighting all could cease. What he brings us for Christmas is peace. What we all want for Christmas this year is peace. God's gift of peace.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Gabriel Fauré

“Andante”

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Now send us forth in the power of the Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the peace of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

### \*RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment  
in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

## BENEDICTION

### \*HYMN NO. 701

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.

## POSTLUDE

Georg Frideric Handel

“Sinfonia”



**Christmas Door Wreaths:** Thank you Garden group for your donation!

**Prayer Request:**

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz ([pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org)) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer.

**Prayers are requested this week for:**

Cooper Andrews, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Susan Way and Sharon Wiggins.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:**

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

**Care Group: *The All Church 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, Kathryn Himmelsteib** ([deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

**Thank you, all office volunteers:** Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

**Thank you,** all Stream Team Volunteers!

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **December 15 (for the January TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

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**Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor**  
**Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries**  
**Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music**  
**Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate**