

*Forest Hill Church:
Christmas Worship Service
December 25, 2022 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMNyJQ5B4pA>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

This is good news of great joy for all! Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and lived among us that we might become your people.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 134**

"Joy to the World"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken. God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

***HYMN NO. 113**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. **The Lord's right hand and God's holy arm have gotten the victory.** The Lord has made the victory known; God has revealed the divine vindication in the sight of the nations. **The Lord has remembered the steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.** All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.** Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. **Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is coming to judge the earth.** The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with equity.

***HYMN NO. 127**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Jesus, the Light of the World

THE GOSPEL

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.

COMMUNITY LECTIO DIVINA:

What caught your attention? What is God’s Spirit telling you in these words?

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.

***HYMN NO. 132**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

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

Gabriel Faure

“Andante”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 136**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Traditional Scottish Melody

“Baloo Lammy ”

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



1. **Mary Ann Breisch:** In memory of Benjamin Breisch, Shirley Breisch and Jack and Ellarita Wolfe.
2. **Nancy Burcham:** Those impacted by the war in The Ukrainian.
3. **Sheryl Dugard:** In memory of her mother, Mildred and sisters Kerima and Gwendolyn.
4. **Barb Hansen:** In loving memory of Lamont Hansen and Ethel VanFleet.
5. **Melody Huggins:** In loving memory of her mother Agnes.
6. **The Martinez-Finn Family:** In memory of dear loved ones.
7. **Linda Rainey:** In loving memory of her loved ones.
8. **Margie Ravas:** In loving memory of her parents.
9. **Anne and Jeff Smith:** In honor of Monique, Ozzie, and Emmanuel.
10. **Derry & Kathy Hanna Stauffer:** Remembering parents: Margy & Dwight Stauffer; Jane & Dwight Hanna.
11. **Eileen Vizcaino:** Remembering all peaceful people who will celebrate Christ's birth behind bars simply for lack of bail money.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The best gift of Christmas is the baby born in a humble stable who led us and connected us to himself and to each other. Our Christmas Joy Offering allows us to give to those who have given so much of themselves to create a Christian community and continue Jesus' teachings.

The offering honors and celebrates leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have led us, but now find themselves in critical financial need. In addition, it supports emerging leaders, students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families. One minister who retired after a lifetime of service to others suffered a stroke. His wife writes, "we are so grateful to directly benefit from such financial assistance in our great need since [his] stroke."

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. John Sitler, Upper School teacher at Menaul School (a recipient of Joy Offering funds) in Albuquerque, N. Mexico writes, "We teach that faith is to be lived out in the world. Because so many young people today see the church as building walls to isolate and separate, we at Menaul are all about opening doors to the richness of God's creation."

Please give what you are able when the offering is collected on December 24, 25 and January 1. Thank you!





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) 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, Kitty McWilliams, 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).

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 **January 12 (for the February TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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