

Forest Hill Church PRESBYTERIAN



*Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence,
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*

Pastor

John C. Lentz, Jr., M Div, PhD

Associate Pastor

Director of Lay Leadership
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Service of Worship

December 12, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday in the Season of Advent

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please print your name on a name tag and wear it so that we might greet you. Large print editions of the Bible, the Hymnal, and today's bulletin as well as hearing devices are available from the ushers on request.

■■■ *Prayer of Preparation*

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. We would be silent now to receive the gift you would give to us this hour through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

The Prelude

"Christmas Medley"
Voices in Bronze

arr. J. Martin

The Choral Introit

"Magnify the Lord"
Cherub Choir; Lisa Koops, director

J. Berthier

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Call to Worship

Tom, Beth and Ian Zych, Advent Candle Lighters

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days

People: When the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us worship God.

*** The Processional Hymn No. 12**

"People, Look East"

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Clover Beal

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

A Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Merbecke

■ ■ ■ *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

The Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria, Gloria No. 576**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!
*2nd time, men begin; women begin 2 measures later;
Children and youth begin 2 measures after that.*

The Anthem

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”
Descant Choir

spiritual

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

The Family Meditation

* **Hymn No. 53**

“What Child Is This”

*Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn
Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

The Scripture Lessons (read by Elder Jenny Himmelman)

Luke 1: 46-55
Matthew 11: 2-11

After the readings

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

“Great Expectations”

Dr. John Lentz

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

please use debts, debtors

The Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign the tablets as a record of attendance

The Offertory

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”
Josh Toombs, baritone; Lisa Koops, flute

arr. J. Bell

* **The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

■ ■ ■ *Going Forth to Live as God's People*

* **The Closing Hymn No. 2**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

* **An Advent Litany: “Among the Poor”**

Leader: Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged, Christ is coming.

People: **Christ is coming to make all things new. In the private house, in the marketplace, in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall, Christ is coming.**

Leader: Christ is coming to make all things new. With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love, Christ is coming.

People: **Christ is coming to make all things new. Within us, without us, among us, before us, in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time, Christ is coming.**

Leader: Christ is coming to make all things new!

* **The Choral Benediction**

* **The Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *The Postlude*

J. S. Bach

“In dulci jubilo”



Many thanks to our Advent trumpeters: Scott Lafferty and Ahren Stock

■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Brian Khoury by Allan and Zivile, Julie and Jonathan and their families; by Paula Bodwell Harvey and her husband Tom Harvey in loving memory of Paula’s parents, George and Ginny Bodwell, and Tom’s parents, Mary and Robert Harvey; and by Consuelo and Grant Heineman to celebrate Roger’s 50th birthday.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Pam Conover, George Dean, Robert Eaton, Joy Ferguson, Arlene Quinn, Debbie Ungemach, Ted Woodbridge

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ralph Dise, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Mary Jean Kent, Elizabeth Kosnik, Mary Lewis, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters

Please join us in praying for Thomas Taylor, who is leaving this week for naval training.

We invite you to write prayer requests on a slip of paper from the envelope rack and pass it to an usher during the singing of the middle hymn, to be included in the prayers later in the service. Lists of ongoing prayer concerns are in each month’s **TOWER**.

This Month’s Ushers

Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; Amy Davis, Chris Davis, Scott Duncan, Jean Duncan, Brian Klein, Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

Nursery care for babies and young children is available on the second floor of the Monticello Wing.

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

TODAY

Welcome Visitors!

Please stop by the Visitor Information table in the Courtyard Foyer following worship. We’re looking forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex.

Visitors and newer members – If you have a few minutes after church and would like to meet and get to know other members of Forest Hill Church, come to **Connections Corner** in Fellowship Hall. Look for the table to the left as you enter the room. Come for coffee, a tasty treat, conversation and connection!

Ten Thousand Villages – Gift Sale in Fellowship Hall

Finish up your Christmas shopping (or start and finish in one swoop!) in Fellowship Hall today, before and after worship.

Advent Workshop Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with last week’s Advent Workshop. This annual inter-generational event cannot happen without the many volunteers who help cut, glue, paint, organize and cook. **Thank you** to Don Clark, Laurie Logan, Wendy Brock, Carol Leslie, Chelsea Richards, Kara Schellenberg, Kathryn Eloff, Kate Burleigh, Jane Ishler, and Cathy Ghiandoni. Also, a huge **Thank You** to Morag Keefe, Kristen Sloan and our Youth for preparing and serving the Advent Workshop baked potato lunch.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels will meet Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lesson this week is **Matthew 1: 18-25**.

Advent and Christmas Events at Forest Hill Church

- December 12: **Ten Thousand Villages** gift sale before and after worship
Christmas Pageant practice, 12:15 p.m.
- December 14: Iris Circle: Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m.
Women's Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m.
- December 18: Pacesetters: Christmas Party, 7 – 10 p.m. at the Lentzes'
TUFF: The Under Forty Fellowship (no kids): Christmas Party at the
Hideks', 7:30 p.m.
- December 19: Worship: Festival of Lessons and Carols
MOB: Christmas Party, 6 – 8 p.m. (Lentzes')
- December 20: Christmas in a Minor Key, 7 p.m.
- December 24: Family Christmas Eve Worship, 5 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship, 11 p.m., followed by milk and cookies
(music begins at 10:45)
- December 26: Worship in Fellowship Hall, 11 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

Lessons and Carols

The annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held during morning worship on December 19. The Chancel, Sine Nomine and Descant Choirs are all rehearsing for this beautiful and celebrative service. Invite friends!

LOOKING AHEAD

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples, 60s – 70s)

The Group's January outing will be held on Saturday, January 8th at 8:00pm. We will be going to see *Backwards in Heels*, a vibrant musical based on the life of Ginger Rogers, at the Cleveland Play House. **Tickets are \$29.00 and must be reserved no later than Monday, December 13.** Please contact Marcia Grant at mgrant@us.edu or at 440-446-8093 to reserve a seat.

Care Group

All FHC members will be responsible for meeting members' needs during December. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

Today's CARE Group volunteers: Jane and Chuck Ishler (Continental Breakfast); Ellen McChesney (Coffee Hour); Betty Clark and Rosaneil Schenk (Greeting Cards); Kemp and Cindy Jaycox, Nancy Wyss (Greeters); Cathy Ghiandoni (Flowers)

Calling All Bakers!

As you are baking for this holiday season, consider setting aside a dozen here and a dozen there and bringing them on Christmas Eve for the traditional post-midnight milk and cookies time! Contact Melody Obery (216-291-8323 or obery@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Kerygma Begins January 16

Information and registration forms are now available for the next Kerygma series, titled ***Into the Word: The Book of the Acts of the Apostles***. Look for the registration table in Fellowship Hall.

■■■ Youth News

Today

Deposits for Sr High mission trip are due today! All youth currently in grades 8-12 are encouraged to attend our week of mission, July 10-16 in Washington, DC. Secure your spot with a \$25 deposit. Contact Kristen Sloan (kristens@fhcpresb.org) for more information.

Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse in the chapel after worship.

Senior Highs will meet today from 5 – 7 p.m. (*Please bring \$3 for pizza*)

Next Sunday

December 19: MOB Christmas Party at the Lentz home

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25. As part of your daily devotions, read the lessons. What image or word catches your attention? How do they settle or challenge you? Keep notes of your observations in a journal. Set aside part of each day for prayer and study. Links to the readings for each Sunday appear on the church's Facebook page, the **Upcoming Sundays** page of our website (<http://www.fhcpresb.org/worship-music/upcoming-sundays/>), and on the "Sundays in December" page of the **TOWER**.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

Program Staff

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Calendar: December 12-19, 2010

<p>Sunday, December 12 Ten Thousand Villages: Fair trade Christmas gift sale before and after worship 9:15 Child care begins 9:30 Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir Activity Cherub Choir 10:30 Chancel Choir Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship Little Explorers 11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land 12:15 Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir Christmas Pageant practice 5:00 Faith Leader MOB: Sr High</p> <p>Monday, December 13 6:00 p.m. Progress not Perfection (Al Anon) 7:00 p.m. Al Anon 7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA) Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday, December 14 6:00 p.m. Iris Circle potluck 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36 Women's Lessons and Carols 7:30 p.m. Reaching Hts meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 15 7:30 a.m. Bible & Bagels 10:00 a.m. TOWER collators 12:30 p.m. Bullshevicks 5:45 p.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Ministry of Worship 7:00 p.m. Session meeting</p> <p>Thursday, December 16 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p> <p>Saturday, December 18 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 10:00 a.m. Piano Recital 6:30 p.m. The Group – Christmas Potluck 7:00 p.m. Pacesetters – Christmas Party 7:30 p.m. TUFF (The Under Forty Fellowship) – Christmas Party</p> <p>Sunday, December 19 9:15 Child care begins 9:30 Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir Activity 10:30 Chancel Choir Cherub Choir Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP: Festival of Lessons and Carols Children in Worship Little Explorers 12:15 Coffee Hour Christmas Pageant practice Blood pressure check 5:00 Faith Leader 6:00 MOB: Christmas Party @ Lentzes'</p>
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Dear Friends,

For those of you considering a stock gift to the church, may we suggest that you start it in motion soon?

With the Christmas and New Year holidays, we lose several banking days. For us to be able to record your gifts properly in calendar year 2010 we need several days to receive, sell and post the information.

With great appreciation for your love of church,

the Financial Office

**A Women's Service of Lessons and Carols
Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
FHC Chapel**

A Women's Service of Lessons and Carols is a unique worship service utilizing Scripture's narrative focusing on the female characters of faith throughout the bible. The nine lessons also include contemporary women writers. Anne Wilson will be leading us in music. Numerous women will be reading and leading. Join us for this intimate setting celebrating the coming Light of God. In the darkness of winter, a light shone forth. May that Light illumine our lives. All are welcome. Please invite a friend to this very special worship service.

**Christmas in a Minor Key
~ a service for the sadness of the season
Monday, December 20, 2010
FHC Chapel**

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian welcomes you to an early evening service of readings, music, and silence designed as a time apart for those challenged by the holidays. The death of a loved one, a relationship or family separation, a job layoff, or another form of personal or family loss -- these events make it difficult to find joy or even to cope with the holiday season. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2010 to celebrate Christmas quietly, in a way that honors the darkness as well as the light. Coffee and hot cider will be available afterward if you would like to stay for conversation.

Luke 1: 46-55

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.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.