

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian
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Service of Worship

November 27, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday in the Season of Advent

Celebration of Communion

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*

In my loneliness, I am waiting to be visited; in my uncertainty, I am waiting to be reassured; in my happiness, I am waiting for a deeper fulfillment; in my soul I am waiting to be wanted.

Welcome

Prelude

"Sleepers Awake"

J. S. Bach

Choral Introit

■ ■ ■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle by Members of the Chancel Choir

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his root a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music
Liz Wollaeger, Dir. Of Chr. Education
Kristen Otte, Director of Youth Ministries

People: He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

Leader: Our hope is in the Lord our God – and in the one whom he has sent to be judge of the living and the dead – the one who has come forth from Jesse and whose return in glory we even now await.

People: Our hope may falter – but God never fails. The Lord sends forth light to encourage us and to light our way as we await the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel and to all the earth.

The Candle of Hope is lit

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the light that you have sent and are sending into the world, the light that even now lights our path. Come among us and make your name known to all people.

* **Processional Hymn No. 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

■■■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

Prayer of Confession

Open our eyes, Lord, especially if they are half shut because we are tired of looking, or half open because we fear to see too much, or blurred with tears because yesterday and today and tomorrow are filled with the same pain, or contracted, because we only look at what we want to see. Open our eyes, Lord, to gently scan the life we lead, the home we have, the world we inhabit, and so to find, among the gremlins and grayness, signs of hope we can fasten on and encourage. In Jesus’ name.

A Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison *(Lord, have mercy)*

Merbecke

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

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.

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

Family Meditation

“The Jesse Tree”

* **Hymn**

“Sing Hallelujah”

Scripture Lesson

Elder Jim Manista

Exodus 40: 34-38

After the reading(s)

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“In the Clouds...(I’m cirrus)”

Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign tablets as a record of attendance

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

A. Thomas

“Keep Your Lamps”

*** 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.**

■ ■ ■ *Eucharist*

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

Merbecke

Prayers of the People

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.

Communion of the People

Music during Communion

J. Bell

“Communion Advent Lullaby”

Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of the spirit, to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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

*** Closing Hymn No. 8**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates.”

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Choral Benediction**

*** Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

J. S. Bach

“Come, Savior of the Gentiles”



■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given by Betty and Don Clark in honor of their parents, Ray and Irma Clark and Herbert and Betty Fritz; by Elspeth and Richard Peterjohn in memory of Barbara Beesley; and by the Hansen, White, and Davidson families in loving memory of Lamont Hansen.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Don Clark, Bill Currie, Robin Craig, Sharon Shumaker, Debbie Ungemach

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Bob Bielek, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Dorothy Hales, Elizabeth Kosnik, Merdine T. Morris, Marilyn Oviatt, Joyce Peters, Anne Taylor

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

Roger Heineman, Lead and Head Usher; Robyn Hales, Paula Harvey, Tom Harvey, Jason Hidek, Diane McFiggen, Tom McFiggen, Dick Peterjohn, Chuck Smith.

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.

The Advent Candles

The Advent candles are lit today by members of the Chancel Choir.

An Advent Invitation

Begin this season of longing and anticipation by listening to George Frideric Handel's **Messiah**. The Cleveland Messiah Chorus offers this glorious music of promise and hope this evening, Nov. 27, at 7:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church (13001 Cedar Road, between Lee and Coventry.) FHC Chancel Choir member Ginie Mast conducts; Mist'a Craig, FHC Choral Scholar, is one of the soloists. A free-will offering will be taken.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lessons this week are **Isaiah 40: 1-11 and Mark 1: 1-8**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

Meet for a wrap-up of this fall's study of Exodus.

Advent Workshop

The annual intergenerational Advent Workshop is next Sunday, December 4. Please see p. 10 for details.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nursery

Where can you eat animal crackers, hold a baby, play with blocks and listen to the worship service? In our nursery, that's where! Our nursery is in need of volunteers through the winter months. Please sign up in the nursery or contact Liz Wollaeger.

Care Group

The Deacons will be responsible for meeting members' needs during December. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

The Deacons of Forest Hill Church are:

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|-------------------|--------------|
| Debbie Adrine | Daryl Musick |
| Mary Ball | Cindy Newton |
| Jennifer Blakeney | Joy Stang |
| Cathie Kernich | Ahren Stock |
| Janet Kickel | Julie Waring |
| Robin Mervine | Nancy Wyss |

Today's Corinth CARE Group volunteers: Mel and Emily Mervine (Continental Breakfast); Barb Cloud (Coffee Hour); Robin Mervine (Greeting Cards); Priscilla Colville, Amanda Mervine (Greeters); Joanne and Dan Shaner (Flowers)

Social Groups and Circles

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

The Group will gather for a Christmas pot luck dinner at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews, 2740 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, **Friday, December 9** at 6:00 pm. (Note that this is a change from the **TOWER** announcement.) Appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts are needed. Main course provided. We will collect gifts for the Boulevard School family we are helping this year. Contact Cathy Ghiandoni at 216 691-1905 or cgghiandoni@aol.com for reservations and more information about the gift-giving.

The Back Row (singles and couples 20s – 40s)

Ho Ho Ho! Mark your calendar for the Back Row Annual Christmas Party! Plan to join us December 10th at 7:30 pm at the home of the Hideks, 5284 Golfway Lane, Lyndhurst 44124. Please bring an appetizer to share and any special drinks you may want. Book your babysitters now so that you can enjoy some adult-only social time! Contact Christina Hidek (christina.hidek@gmail.com or 440-646-9093).

■ ■ ■ *Youth News*

Today Mid and Sr High: Meet from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead

- Friday, Dec. 2: Mid High Christmas Party, 6-8 pm, at Kristen’s
- Sunday, Dec. 4: Serve lunch and help with the Advent Workshop

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8. 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

- Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr. / pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org ext. 200
- Rev. Clover Beal / pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org ext 201
- Liz Wollaeger / lizw@fhcpresb.org ext. 206
- Anne Wilson / annew@fhcpresb.org ext. 208
- Kristen Otte / kristeno@fhcpresb.org ext. 207

Office Staff

- Becky Austin / beckya@fhcpresb.org ext 203
- Lynda Bernays / office@fhcpresb.org ext 202
- Stavros Gazis / office@fhcpresb.org ext 202



Celebrate the season of Advent at Forest Hill Church’s annual Advent Workshop, December 4

Lunch prepared and served by our youth groups.

Free will offering will support mission trips.

Advent Workshop 1:00-3:00

Come create a family Advent craft and Christmas decorations to celebrate the season.

■■■ *Calendar: November 27 - December 4, 2011*

<p>Sunday, November 27 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion Children in Worship Little Explorers 12:15 Coffee Hour 5:00 Faith Leader Kerygma</p> <p>Monday, November 28 4:30 pm PWR at Fairmount PC 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon Boy Scout Troop #403 Youth Core Team 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)</p> <p>Tuesday November 29 6:30 pm Kerygma class (at Williams') 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #36</p> <p>Wednesday, November 30 7:15 am Bible and Bagels</p>	<p>Thursday, December 1 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, December 2 9:30 am Al Anon</p> <p>Saturday, December 3 8:00 am Men's Group 9:00 am Women's Retreat Advent Workshop set-up 10:00 am Advent Decorations Set-up</p> <p>Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship Little Explorers Pathways to the Promise Land 12:15 Lunch 1:00 Advent Workshop 5:00 Faith Leader</p>
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**The "Scottish Penny Song" collected \$ 120.13 for the Food Cupboard.
 Many thanks for all your donations!**

Exodus 40:34-38

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.



Order poinsettias for Christmas!

Poinsettias are \$7.00 each and may be ordered through December 11. Please complete the order form below and contact the church office with the information:

Name: _____

Plants given by (if different from above name):

Number of plants ordered: _____

Do you wish to donate them or take them home after the Christmas Eve service? D T

Plants given in honor of _____

In memory of _____

Total : _____ plants @ \$7 each = _____

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