

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth 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.

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

■ ■ ■ *Lighting of the Advent Candles*

Leader: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath -- the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy.

People: Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of Love.

Leader: Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

People:: From the Gospel of John we hear: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Leader: Let us pray

All: Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. AMEN.

Carol No. 49 "Once in Royal David's City"

Stanza 1 – Zoe Hartz, soloist

Stanza 2 – choir

Organ Interlude

* **Stanzas 3 and 4 – all stand and sing**

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 1* Making the House Ready (by Mary Oliver) read by Peg Weissbrod
Carol: "He Will Come When We're Least Expecting Him" J. Bell

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 2* Luke 1: 26-38 read by Clara Wilson
Carol: "Ave Maria" F. Biebl
Jaired Birks, bass; Trio: Beth Zych, Laura Minder, Linn Obery

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 3* When the World Was Dark (Iona Community) read by Jean Reinhold
Carol No. 53 (*remain seated*) "What Child Is This?"
Carol: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Polish carol

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 4* Luke 2:8-20 read by Sarah Lentz
Carol: "Glory to God" (from *Messiah*) G. F. Handel
Beth Zych, soprano

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 5* The Lamb (by William Blake) read by Lillie Trammell
Carol: "Away in a Manger" Jaired Birks, bass

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 6:* Matthew 2:1-11 read by Arvid Whitmore
* **Carol No. 46** "On This Day Earth Shall Ring"
Carol: "Star Carol" John Rutter
Macy Smith and Molly Webster, soloists

■ ■ ■ *Lesson 7:* John 1: 1-5, 9-14 read by Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.
Offertory Carol: "Angel Carol" John Rutter
Shelly Jesberger, soprano

* **Benediction** Rev. Clover Reuter Beal

Leader: On the eve of Christmas hatred will vanish;
On the eve of Christmas the earth will flourish;
On the eve of Christmas war will be gone;
On the eve of Christmas love will be born.
When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person,

All: It is Christmas.

Leader: When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love,

All: It is Christmas.

Leader: When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart,

All: It is Christmas.

Leader: When I am buried in the being of God,
All: **It is Christmas.**

* **Carol No. 31**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

* **The Commission and Blessing**

* **The Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

L. Daquin

“Noel 10”



The crucifer today is Eric Brock.

■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Today’s Advent Family

The Ferguson family is lighting the candles this morning – Joy, Mark Ashish and Kumar.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Polly Cohen	Mary Jean Kent	Jack Quinn
Fran and Pat Drake	Mary Lewis	Debbie Ungemach
Marian Frederick	Jane Little	Dennis Wedding
Barney Fuller	Rebecca Martin	Marcie Weissner
David Gury	Connie May	Lois Young
Elizabeth Hach	Aiesha Minor	Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey
Dorothy Hales	Marilyn Oviatt	Jerry & Loretta Lassarella
Jason Himmelsteib		

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.

Advent Musicians

Many thanks to Lena Console and Scott Lafferty, the trumpet players during Advent.

Paperless Tower

Paperless Tower Project: So far we have received responses from 107 families opting out of the Tower program. If you have still not responded to the Opt-Out email and still want to be removed from the mailing list of the Tower, contact the church office.

Remember, the Tower is now available online and since it takes paper, ink, toner, staples, and postage to produce, THINK GREEN, and opt out of the monthly mailing list.

Thank You, Angels!

On behalf of the Heights Interfaith Council I would like to thank Julie Lustic and Forest Hill Church for contributing to the Holiday Angels Ministry. This year, the Holiday Angels program was able to provide gifts for 431 children who are served by the Heights Emergency Food Center located at Disciples Christian Church. Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Kathleen Fox *Director, 2009 Holiday Angels*

THIS WEEK

Blue Christmas

Is the Christmas season a hard time for you? The Rev. Lois Annich, a Presbyterian Pastor and Pastoral Counselor, will be presiding at a “Blue Christmas” service at 7:00 p.m. on December 21st at Plymouth Church (UCC) in Shaker Heights. The service will be a quiet and contemplative one focusing on God’s comfort and care in times of stress.

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The scripture this week (yes, we are meeting on Dec. 23) is **John 1: 1-14.**

Christmas Eve Schedule: **Thursday, December 24**

- 5 p.m. Family Worship**
- 10:45 p.m. Musical Prelude**
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship**
- 12:00 a.m. Christmas Gathering**

The office will be closed from noon on Dec. 24 until Monday morning, December 28.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education: 9:30 in South Hall

- Dec. 27 No class
- Jan. 3 No class
- Jan. 10 Christians in the Middle East
Dr. Peter Makari, Executive Dir. Global Ministries, Middle East and Europe, UCC and Disciples Churches
- Jan. 17 How Then Shall We Live?
Spiritual Disciplines as a way to grow in your faith Rev. Clover Beal
- Jan. 24 How Do I Pray? Tom Zych and Clover Beal
- Jan. 31 Praying for Your Life

LOOKING AHEAD

Home for the Holidays?

Home from college for the holidays?

Have a night off from that new job?

Between the ages of 18-23?

Deanne and John Lentz are hosting a post-high school reunion on

Wed. Dec. 30th from 6-9 p.m.

Deanne will make her wonderful soups and bread.

Come when you can, leave when you have to.

See old friends, make some new ones. Share experiences, just relax!

The Lentzes: 1619 Compton, Cleveland Hts.; RSVP to 216-371-8470

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s) On January 9, 2010 we will meet in the lobby of the Cleveland Museum of Art at 3:15 p.m. for a tour of the new East Wing with our favorite docent, Anne Wilson. The tour will last 1½ hours. The museum is free but there is a fee for parking in the garage. After the tour, we'll go to Nighttown on Cedar Rd. in Cleveland Hts. for dinner. RSVP to Bob or Pat Jeffreys (219-381-2120 or bobpatj@aol.com) by December 28.

■■■ *FHC Youth*

Sr. High Youth We will meet at the home of the Lentzes this evening at 5 p.m. for a White Elephant Gift Exchange party.

Mid High Night Lights will meet with Tori Weisberg on Fridays, 6- 8 p.m. The next scheduled gathering is January 8, but watch for news of vacation activities!

■■■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52. 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. The lectionary readings for each Sunday are included in the "Sundays in January" page of the **TOWER**.

■■■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

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The Poinsettias are given by

Betsy and Joe Andrews in honor of Cooper and Cameron Andrews
Chris and Dave Bell in honor of friends
The Bell family in honor of Jean Bell and in memory of Louis Bell and
Bob and Betty Conklin
William Bidelman, Billie Little, Linda McKinley, and Barbara Talley
in memory of Verna Bidelman
Chessie Bleick in honor of family and friends
The Cameron family in loving memory of Dr. Donald B. Cameron,
Mary Margaret Cameron and Alan Scott Cameron
Carolyn Charles and Dick Obermanns in memory of their parents,
Eda and Henry Obermanns and Ann and Don Charles
Don and Betty Clark in memory of their parents
Kay and Bill Currie in honor of their grandchildren
Jane Frederick in memory of her sister Leslie Liedtka
Donna Frey in memory of loved ones
Cathy and Don Ghiandoni
Ron and Marcia Grant
Barbara Hansen in memory of Lamont and of her mother Ethel Van Fleet
The Himmelman family in memory of Carl and Edith Himmelman
Jon and Heather House in honor of their wonderful families and in memory of
Colin Anderson Hoeft
Anne and David Hunter in memory of loved ones
Bob and Pat Jeffreys
Joan Kandare in memory of loved ones
Cliff and Jane Kowall in memory of their parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and
Paul and Dorothy Kowall
The Leslie / Richards Family in memory of Lois, Hugh, and Barb Leslie
Karen and Clyde Loughridge in memory of their mothers
Vikki Nowak and Todd Webster
Joyce Peters in memory of Evelyn and Valdimir Peters

Graham and Rosamonde Peters in honor of family and friends
Elizabeth R. Porcello in memory of James F. Porcello Sr.
and in memory of Carol Porcello
The Scotts in honor of Carol and Leighton's 40th wedding anniversary
Dick and Mollie Secor
Stephen Sedam and Virginia Weiss **in memory of** Ann Weiss
Dele and Damos Solaru in memory of Ope Bello
Margy and Dwight Stauffer in memory of loved ones
Jill and Kevin White in memory of their fathers Lamont Hansen and Jerry White
Matt and Sarah Winters in memory of Barbara Henning
Bob and Ginny Young
Dene Young in memory of loved ones

The wreaths on the Sanctuary door are a gift from the Hilltop Garden Club.



Pastor
John C. Lentz, Jr., M Div, PhD
Associate Pastor
Director of Lay Leadership
Clover Reuter Beal, M Div

Ministry of Music
Anne Wilson, MM, FAGO, ChM
Director of Christian Education
Liz Wollaeger

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Calendar: December 20 - 27, 2009

Sunday, December 20: 4 Advent

9:30 Child care begins
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
Adult and Youth education
10:15 Descant Choir activity
Cherub Choir
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP
12:15 Coffee Hour
Blood Pressure check
Sine Nomine Choir
Christmas Eve pageant rehearsal
5:00 MOB: Sr High (at Lentzes')

Monday, December 21

7:00 p.m. Al Anon
7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA)
Boy Scout Troop #403

Wednesday, December 23

7:30 a.m. Bible and Bagels

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Office closes at 12 noon
5:00 p.m. Family Worship
10:45 p.m. Musical Prelude
11:00 p.m. Candlelight worship
A time of fellowship will follow the service

**Friday,
December 25:
Christmas Day
Office closed**



Sunday, December 27: 1 Christmas

10:30 Child care begins
10:30 Continental Breakfast
11:00 WORSHIP in Fellowship Hall
12:15 Coffee Hour



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