

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian
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A Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 18, 2011 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

Prelude

C. Duebber
 "Ringing Joy for Baby Jesus"
 Cherub Choir; Beth Zych, director

Lighting of the Advent Candles

lit by Faith Leader members

Leader: The grace of our 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 roots 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 of the fear of the Lord.

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: He will be known as the light of the world. All will dwell in everlasting love, and there will be no darkness in them. The Lord is our hope, our peace, our joy and our love.

All four candles are lit

All: 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. Visit us this day and give us eyes to see and hearts to welcome your presence. Make us a people who receive and give birth to your love in the world.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came	O	Mary said to the angel, "how can this be since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will
W	I	T
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,	U	...and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born

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

Hymn No. 49 “Once in Royal David’s City”
 Stanza 1 – Colin Burleigh, soloist
 Stanza 2 - choir
 Organ interlude
 * **Stanzas 3 & 4 - all stand and sing**

Lesson 1 “When the Time Was Right” by John Bell
 read by Emily Brock, Blake Himes, Molly Webster, Sharif George,
 Sarah Lentz, Ian Zych, Edie Duncan, and Mist’a Craig

Carol J. Bell
 “He Will Come When We’re Least Expecting Him”

Lesson 2 **Luke 1: 26-38**
 read by Zoe Hartz

Carol A. Peloquin
 “A Gathering Song”
 Soloists: Melody Obery, Shelly Jesberger, Beth Zych

Lesson 3 **Luke 2: 8-20**
 read by Rowan Trammell
 Carol spiritual
 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
 Alexander Shaner, soloist

Family Meditation: the Jesse Tree

Lesson 4 “The Lamb” by William Blake
 read by Grant Heineman

Carol Anglo-Irish Carol
 “The Snow Lay on the Ground”
 Nora Duncan, soloist

Lesson 5 **Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**
 read by Willie Dycks

* **Hymn No. 37 (all sing)** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Carol A. Thomas
 “Walk in the Light”

Lesson 6 “When The World Was Dark” from the Iona Community
 read by Mary Ann Breisch

Carol A. Adam
 “O Holy Night”

Lesson 7 **John 1: 1-5, 9-14**
 read by Dr. John C. Lentz

Offertory Carol P. Orr
 “Set the Sun Dancing”

* **Hymn No. 23 (all sing)** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

* **Benediction** Rev. Clover 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 we wipe the tears from weeping eyes,
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.

* **Commission and Blessing**

* **Hymn No. 31 (all sing)** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

* **Passing of the Peace**

* Postlude

L. Daquin

“Noel No. 10”
Lena Console, trumpet



Thanks to today’s Advent trumpeters, Lena Console and Scott Lafferty.

■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Prayer Concerns this Week

Bill Currie, Marion Frederick, Ron and Florence Klein, Debbie Ungemach, Johanna Wilcott

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

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.

The Advent Candles

Todd Webster, Suzanne Marcy, Mark Waring and Michelle Jean-Mary, representing all members of the Faith Leader group, are lighting the candles today.

Exterior Renovation Project Update

The project is complete and all of the funds have been expended. The total cost of project was \$680,000. To date, we have received pledge payments totaling \$586,000. The current bank loan is \$ 94,000. The church is currently paying \$250 in interest each month. All payments received now will immediately reduce the church’s interest cost. To date 66% or 142 of the pledges have been paid in full. Thanks to all of you who have helped keep the financing cost low. As the end of the tax year approaches, please consider accelerating your payments.

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 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14.**

Christmas Worship

- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve**
Family Worship, 5 pm
Candlelight Worship, 11 pm (music at 10:45)
Milk-and-cookies reception following worship
- Dec. 25 **Christmas:** No classes or choirs
Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall
- Jan. 1 **New Year’s Day:** No classes or choirs
Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall

Care Group

The YOU CARE Group – all members of the church – is responsible for meeting needs that arise this month. 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 leader.

Youth News

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

Sr High Christmas Party – December 18, 5 – 8 pm at Kristen’s.

Looking Ahead: Winter Break Lock-In, Dec. 29-30, 8 pm – 8 am at Mayfield Church (7747 Mayfield Rd., Chesterland)

The Lessons

Next Sunday: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14. 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

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Calendar: December 18 - 25, 2011

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir Ten Thousand Villages shop 10:15 Descant Choir activity Cherub Choir 10:30 Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP: Festival of Lessons and Carols Children in Worship Little Explorers 12:15 Coffee Hour Ten Thousand Villages shop Christmas Pageant rehearsal 20s-30s Christmas Party 5:00 Faith Leader Sr High Christmas Party	Tuesday December 20 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #36 Wednesday, December 21 7:15 am Bible and Bagels 12:30 pm Bullshevicks @ Wellington’s Friday, December 23 9:30 am Al Anon 12:00 pm Office closes Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Worship – Christmas Pageant 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day: The Nativity of the Lord 11:00 WORSHIP in Fellowship Hall 12:15 Coffee Hour No classes or choirs on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
Monday, December 19 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon Boy Scout Troop #403 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)	

cover art by Eric Muller-Girard