

*Forest Hill Church
Worship Service*

November 28, 2021 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/K1XabuypAyE>

PRELUDE

Carl Rainey

“Trust In The Lord”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

WILSON

“Blessed Are They Who Hunger & Thirst for Justice”

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lia Clement, Leslie Clement,
Mason and Mya Foster

LEADER: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language--the coming of Christ--because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ IS coming. Christ IS ALWAYS coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so, we light the first candle, the candle of HOPE, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing and the well-being of all creation.

ALL: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the power of HOPE. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

HYMN NO. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. O come Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF YEARNING:

Almighty God, your promises of old strengthen us during these dark days. We yearn to learn to read the signs of your coming: in the sun, moon, and stars; in the tumult of our world. Yet, we have seen it all before and nothing seems to change. We long to live with courage in an age where wars are fought for peace and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty. Grant us the wisdom that comes from waiting, and teach us the patience that leads to godliness as our savior draws near. Amen. (*We observe a time of silence*)

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We worship a God of mercy who abounds in steadfast love. The one who is God's righteous branch draws near to save us from our weakness, and to seal us in God's love. Be at peace.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship Committee

ANTHEM

Richard Smallwood

"Psalm 8"

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can

see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 92

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.
Come, Savior, quickly, come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"A Flicker of Hope"

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.

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/form/f861d6>
You may also mail a check to the church office.

OFFERTORY

Keith Pringle

"If We Faint Not"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN No. 749

"Come! Live in the Light!"

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;

we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.
Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another; to walk humbly with God.
Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Walter Hawkins

“Changed”



Today, please welcome Elégie! Elégie is a male vocal quartet that was founded in 2014. The members are Brian Barron, Mist'a Craig, Michael Hives & Caleb Wright, four graduates of Cleveland Heights High School (C/O '09 & '11). Along with Phillip K. Jones II is a pianist, arranger, songwriter, composer, and choir director originally from Cleveland, OH. He is a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School (C/O '01), Oberlin College, and Cleveland State University. The group is looking forward to a tour in New York City in spring 2022, which will launch at the famed Harlem Jazz Club, Minton's Playhouse, on February 4th.

Prayer Request:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) or Pastor Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer. Please direct all prayer concerns that arise between Friday and Sunday morning to the Pastor's on-call phone line (216-319-3596). The on-call phone is operational after office hours on weekdays and Saturday through Sunday morning.

Prayers are requested this week for:

Shirley Breisch, Leslie Clement, Mark Davidson, Dara Elliot, Beth Garrett, Mark Hansen, the parents of Jeannine Gury (Karen and David), Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Elspeth Peterjohn, Kelly (the sister of Rob Reynolds), Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Susan Way, and Sharon Wiggins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

Care Group: *The Eden Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **November**. 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, Deanne Lentz** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

Thank you, all office volunteers: Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **December 16 (for the January TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.