

*Forest Hill Church  
Worship Service*

*December 19, 2021 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/P4pJFDhqV5M>

*Centering Words*

*“And Christ shall be the one of peace.”*

*--Micah 5:5a*

**PRELUDE**

J.A.P. Schulz

“O Come, Little Children”

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Vivaldi

“Largo”

Voices in Bronze

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND**

Christine, Adam, Theo, Willa and Augie Stier

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**LEADER:** The first three candles we lit were for hope, peace, and joy. Today we light the fourth candle--the candle of LOVE. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than LOVE. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because God LOVES us.

**ALL:** Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your LOVE within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

**HYMN NO. 104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you a right?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.
2. Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace

in love, all loves excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.  
3. You come, O Lord, with gladness,  
in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness  
and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation  
we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation  
your glory shall display.

### *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**O Shepherd of Israel, from whom comes forth one who shall feed your flock, we gather as those who dwell in the folds of your embrace and care. Your love envelops us like swaddling clothes wrapped around a babe in a manger. Let your countenance shine upon us like the star that led the shepherds one night. Entering your sanctuary, we behold your radiance and praise your name for the Christ who brings us salvation. Look upon us with compassion; forgive us our sins, and restore us to a right relationship with you, ourselves, and one another, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

Micah foresees the Coming One, and proclaims the people shall dwell secure in the majesty of God's name.

**Christ is our peace, and we can dwell secure in the knowledge that through him we are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen.**

#### **MINUTE FOR MISSION CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Jack Lentz

#### **ANTHEM**

Charles Gounod

"Lovely Appear"  
Chancel Choir  
Madelaine Matej, soprano

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

#### **THE LIVING WORD**

##### **Micah 5:2-5a (Responsive):**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.** Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

**And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.**

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;  
**And he shall be the one of peace.**

### Luke 1:39-55:

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And 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."

### *After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN NO. 100**

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

**1.** My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great  
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

#### ***Refrain:***

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

**2.** Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths  
of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight  
For the world is about to turn. **[Refrain]**

**3.** From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
Not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your  
justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread;  
every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **[Refrain]**

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. **[Refrain]**

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

**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**

Roland Carter

*"My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord"*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

**CLOSING HYMN NO. 136**

*"Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

***Refrain:***

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

- 1.** While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**
- 2.** The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**
- 3.** Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Traditional French Carol

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

### *Poinsettias Given By:*



1. **Dave and Chris Bell:** In celebration of family and friends.
2. **The Banks Family:** In celebration of our Forest Hill Church family.
3. **The Breisch Family:** In memory of Benjamin Breisch.
4. **Nancy Burcham:** In memory of all those who have lost their lives due to COVID-19.
5. **Marina Grant:** In celebration of her family.
6. **Kurt Haas & Deedee Pim:** In memory of Pamela Pim and Carl Haas.
7. **Barbara Hansen:** In memory of Lamont Hansen and Ethel Van Fleet.
8. **Cliff and Jane Kowall:** In memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul and Dorothy Kowall.
9. **Deanne and John Lentz:** John and Deanne give in honor of adored members we lost this year: Doris Brandt, Penny Chapman, Marge Drollinger, Bill Fay, Steve Marunowski, and Leann West.
10. **Karen Loughridge:** In memory of Clyde Loughridge. True shining star.
11. **Jeanette Nemcek:** In thanksgiving for family I.
12. **Margie Ravas:** In honor of all those who have worked tirelessly to help others during the COVID pandemic.
13. **Carolyn Smith:** In memory of my husband, Rev. Andrew Smith, his parents, Dr. Dwight and Josephine Smith, and my parents, Robert and Grace Sloan.
14. **Jocelyn Stang:** In memory of loved ones and in honor of my 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.
15. **Hanna/Stauffer Family:** Celebrating choir's return to church!
16. **ElaineTurley:** In memory and celebration of Molly Banville and in thanksgiving for Veronica and John.

## From the Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth

The Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth is pleased to announce the following classes and groups for Winter of 2022. We believe that all adult Christians need lifelong Christian education and spiritual formation. Please consider signing up for one of these opportunities to learn and grow as a Christian!

### The classes for Winter, 2022 are:

**Title: How the Scriptures Came to Be *THE* Bible**

**Facilitated by:** Tom Zych and Kathryn Eloff

**When:** Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 AM, 1/9-3/27/2022 (12 weeks). The room will open at 9:00 AM.

**Where:** The class is offered as a hybrid so that you can join us via Zoom or in-person.

**Description:** Have you ever wondered how our Scriptures came to be “*the* Bible?” Have you wondered how the books we study got into the canon in the first place? And who decided what was in and what was out? Or even when that came to pass? We share texts with our Jewish sisters and brothers, but we use different collections and use the texts in different ways. When and how did this happen? We invite you to participate in a 12-week class on developing the Biblical canon. A mix of presenters and styles, with various readings, outside speakers, and our own Pauline scholar, the course will be organized around Bart Ehrman’s “The History of the Bible: Making of the New Testament Canon.” There will be readings (including particular sections of scripture and extra-canonical books). It’s hard to predict what will be best about the series, but the first class will undoubtedly be a highlight. Our good friend, Rabbi Roger Klein, will start us off with an outline of Jewish thought on forming the canon of the Hebrew Bible. And he will pick up on an idea that has been raised in our classes: should the canon be open to new books or remove old ones? Is it a formal discussion in our faith? Should it be? Do we have a tradition that parallels the oral and rabbinic traditions of the Jewish tradition? Does the text itself ask for ongoing interpretation?

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/784325246418>

**Title: Follow Me: “The Sum of Us” book discussion**

**Group Leader:** Cynthia Lehman

**When:** To be determined. Cynthia will talk with people who want to participate and choose a time that works for all.

**Where:** On Zoom.

**Resource Text:** *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, By Heather McGhee. Purchase Online [Here](#).

**Description:** Heather McGhee wonders at the beginning of the book why we can't have nice things. By that she means policies and systems that work for **all** of us. Her exploration of that question produced a book that examines all of the ways that the zero-sum game prevents us from creating thriving communities that work for everyone. This book discussion will meet on zoom at a time that works for all.

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/d9d16d>

**Title: Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living – “Baptize” and “Live In Community”**

**Facilitated by:** Eileen Vizcaino and Ann Williams

**When:** Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 AM, 1/9-2/27/2022 (8 weeks). The room will open at 9:15 AM.

**Where:** On Zoom only

**Resource texts:** Your own Bible and a resource book for each month, available in printed copy at the church for \$8 apiece.

**Class Description:** Organized around basic Christian practices, these materials from the Presbyterian Church USA focus on ways for adults to live their faith. Each week, we prepare by reading Bible passages and the book and reflecting on the week’s topic. On Sundays, we have a group discussion,

following the interests of the group members. This class may be of particular interest to parents since our Family, Youth, and Children's program uses a children's version of this same curriculum, allowing families to study similar material together.

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/784325248192>

**Title: Open Our Eyes and Hearts to Racial Injustice**

**Facilitated By:** Quentin Smith and Ron Zimmerman

**When:** Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 AM, 1/9-2/27/2022 (8 weeks). The room will open at 9:15 AM.

**Where:** On Zoom only.

**Resource Text:** The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism, by Jemar Tisby. This book is widely available through many local library bookstores and online bookstores. You may order [here](#).

**Class Description:** Noting that FHC has boldly declared herself a Matthew 25 church, the class asks what does that mean and, more importantly, how does it manifest itself when we also consider Micah 6:8 and Mark 12:28-34

Shortly after the infamous Birmingham church bombing in September 1963, a White lawyer addressed his friends, neighbors, and colleagues and posed a profound question "Who did it" he asked. The lawyer responded to his own question with a provocative answer. 'We all did it,' he concluded. Jamar Tisby writes, "being complicit only requires a muted response in the face of injustice."

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/78432524819297>

**Title: The Men's Group**

**Group Leader:** Pastor John Lentz

**When:** Every first Saturday of the month starting Sept. 11 from 8:00 AM-9:30 AM

**Where:** Via Zoom. Drop-ins are welcome.

**Description:** Men of the FHC congregation get together for a lively group discussion.

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/78432558>

**Title: Bible and Bagels**

**Group Leader:** Pastor John Lentz

**When:** Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM

**Where:** Via Zoom. Drop-ins are welcome.

**Description:** Participants meet for coffee and bagels and a lively discussion of the upcoming lectionary passage. There's nothing to read ahead of time.

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/98da6c454538264754>

### **Coming in the Spring:**

**Title: "Reconnecting with God's Creation"**

**Facilitated by:** Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam

**Description:** If you want to explore the spiritual dimensions of your relationship to the natural world while learning about current environmental issues of local and global significance, consider signing up for "Reconnecting with God's Creation." More information will be forthcoming about this 13-week course (Sundays, 4 – 5:30 p.m., March 13 – June 5)

**Sign up here:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/e0fc68>

**Title: "Preparing for End of Life – for your family members and for you",** taught by Katherine Eloff, Carol Gifford, Cynthia Lehman, and Ann Williams. More details coming soon.



**Prayer Request:**

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz ([pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org)) or Pastor Goines ([pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org](mailto: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:**

Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Elspeth Peterjohn, Rob Reynolds, Sherry Thomson, Grace Uhle, and Susan Way.

**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 All Church Group*** will assist our pastors with members' needs in **December**. 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, Elaine Turley** ([deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

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

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **January 20 (for the February TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

**3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118**

**Office: 216-321-2660      Fax: 216-320-1214**

**Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596**

**Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257**

**Email: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org)      Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)**

**Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors**

**Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries**

**Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music**

**Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate**