

*Forest Hill Church*  
*Worship Service*  
*December 26, 2021 ~ 11:00 am*

Join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/vfPhkTUnInE>

*Centering Words*

*Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice:  
Jesus Christ is born today!*

**PRELUDE**

Johannes Brahms

“Intermezzo”

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God’s love has come to earth to dwell with us. **Sing for joy with the angels.**  
We are God’s chosen people, loved and cherished. **Sing for joy with the angels.**  
The birth of Love has changed us forever. **Sing for joy with the angels.**  
Let us sing, praise, rejoice and worship together!

**HYMN NO. 127**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**1** Hark! the herald angels sing.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King,  
Jesus, the light of the world.

**Refrain:**

We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
O, shine all around us by day and by night.

Jesus, the light of the world.

**2** Joyful all you nations, rise.

Jesus, the light of the world.

Join the triumph of the skies.

Jesus, the light of the world. **[Refrain]**

**3** Christ by highest heaven adored;

Jesus, the light of the world.

Christ, the everlasting Lord;

Jesus, the light of the world. **[Refrain]**

**4** Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Jesus, the light of the world.

Hail, the Sun of righteousness!

Jesus, the light of the world. **[Refrain]**

## *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines on us. Trusting in God's grace let us confess our sin.

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken.

### **ANTHEM**

Mary Ann Breisch

"Refugee"

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

### **THE LIVING WORD**

#### **Psalm 148 (NRSV)**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**Praise God, all his angels; praise God, all his host!**

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

**Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created.

**God established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

**fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

**God has raised up a horn for God's people, praise for all God's faithful. Praise the Lord!**

### **HYMN NO. 137**

"He Came Down"

**1** He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

**2** He came down that we may have light;  
He came down that we may have light;  
He came down that we may have light,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

**3** He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

**4** He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

### **Luke 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

### *After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

*"Adolescent Jesus"*

### **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**

Kabalevsky

"Fairytale"

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

### CLOSING HYMN NO. 134

"Joy to The World"

- 1** Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2** Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3** No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4** He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. **Glory to God in the highest!**  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. **Glory to God in the highest!**  
He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent, Prince of Peace. **Glory to God in the highest!**  
To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. **Glory to God in the highest!**  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us. **Glory to God in the highest!**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

W.A. Mozart

"Allegro"



**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, Austin Schwaderer, 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).

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**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**