

*Forest Hill Church Service  
Communion Sunday*

*December 5, 2021 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/JVJm3EylfJE>

*Centering Words*

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

*-- Luke 1:78-79*

**PRELUDE**

by Rowland H. Prichard,  
arr. by Ruth Elain Schram

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

"Prepare Ye"  
Chancel Choir

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND  
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Lara Troyer, Jeff Dyck,  
Henry and Margaret Dyck

**LEADER:**

This Sunday we light the second candle, the candle of PEACE. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**ALL:**

**Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

**OPENING HYMN NO. 107**

*"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

1. Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.
2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.
3. In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.

Then shall the mute break forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.

4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

### *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

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

Adapted from Dimitrii of Rostov

Come, our light, **and illumine our darkness**  
Come, our life, **and revive us from death**  
Come, our Physician, **and heal our brokenness.**  
Come, Flame of Divine love, **and burn up the dross of our sins,**  
**kindling our hearts with the flame of your love.**

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

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

Good news! God has done great things for us. We are loved; we are forgiven; we are claimed by God's grace. The Holy One has begun a good work in us— expanding our knowledge, sharpening our discernment, and equipping us for faithfulness. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

#### **Hymn 240**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

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

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

4. Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

#### ***[Refrain]***

#### **ANTHEM**

by Mark Hayes

“Promise of Peace”  
Chancel Choir

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

#### **THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)**

#### **Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

*After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

*"Has It Dawned on You?"*

## **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/give/online/>

You may also mail a check to the church office.

## **OFFERTORY**

*"Mungu Nimwema/ Know That God is Good"*

Chancel Choir

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

## **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

W.A. Mozart

*"Adagio"*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN 79**

*"Light Dawns on a Weary World"*

### **1. Light dawn on a weary world**

When eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawn on a weary world: The promised day to justice comes.

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

*The trees shall clap their hands; The dry lands, gush with spring;*

*The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!*

*We shall go out with joy, And be led forth in peace,*

*As all the world in wonder echoes 'shalom'.*

### **2. Love grows in a weary world**

When hungry hearts find bread And children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world; The promised feast of plenty comes.

**[Refrain]**

3. Hope blooms in a weary world

When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world: The promised green of Eden comes.

**[Refrain]**

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

**BENEDICTION AND THE PEACE**

**POSTLUDE**

Traditional, arranged by Virgil Fox

Good King Wencelas



**Chancel Flowers:** In loving memory of Steve Marunowski, with gratitude for his birth on Dec. 6, 1956.

**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:**

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 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 **December 16 (for the January 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