

*Forest Hill Church: Worship Service
First Sunday in Advent
Baptism for baby Clara Abigail Stock
November 27, 2022 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMNyJQ5B4pA>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*To wait within is the hardest: To be will still becoming:
Doomed to all that slowness, Never once to die.
To wait until tomorrow. Costs but a little sleep.
The wilderness inward. Takes years to cross.
Nor is the going wasted. If every stretch was loved;
The last hill then is home ground, For all its light, be strange.*

"Patience" by Mark Van Doren

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Taize hymn

"Prepare The Way of the Lord"

Jack Lentz

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP/Lighting of the Advent Candle** Chenoa Stock, Jose Luis Claire, Leandro Claire

Reader 1: In a world of where so many despair,
God lights a candle of hope in our hearts.

We wait together for a Savior,
who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord:

Reader 2 (Psalm 65:5): *By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.*

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 creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 88**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(Stanzas 1, 6 and 7)

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Carol Wedell

Almighty God, as we await the birth of Jesus we confess that you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” You are forgiven! You can love. You can listen. You can serve your neighbor. You can speak out. You can rise up. You can be a new creation. Now live as if you believe it! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

BAPTISM

Clara Abigail Stock

Clara Abigail with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all on in Christ. Amen

ANTHEM

Charles Wesley/ Felix Mendelssohn

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Elégie

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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"

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"What are you waiting for?"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Carol Wedell

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

African American Spiritual

"Wade in the Water"

Elégie

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 145**

"What Child Is This"

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN NO. 701**

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving I'll be a living

Sanctuary for you.

POSTLUDE

Michael Card

"Barocha"

Elégie



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATION

We are ordering 30 poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary in celebration of Christmas. Afterward, they will be distributed to shut-ins or can be taken home by donors. **We encourage your help by placing orders for \$20 per plant.**

Orders will be due to the Church office by Dec. 16. You can place your order and pay for it online at the following link: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/641db77062553624> or fill out the below paper form. Please turn the paper form into the church office and include payment.

Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas worship service or arrangements can be made to pick them up the following week. Those not picked up will be distributed by Deacon volunteers.

Name:

Poinsettia Given by (if different from "Name" - ie The Smith Family):

Dedication: in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, to celebrate WHOM OR WHAT:

Take the poinsettias home or donate them:

Special instructions?

Make all checks payable to Forest Hill Church Presbyterian, please place Poinsettias on the memo line.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The best gift of Christmas is the baby born in a humble stable who led us and connected us to himself and to each other. Our Christmas Joy Offering allows us to give to those who have given so much of themselves to create a Christian community and continue Jesus' teachings.

The offering honors and celebrates leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have led us, but now find themselves in critical financial need. In addition, it supports emerging leaders, students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families. One minister who retired after a lifetime of service to others suffered a stroke. His wife writes, "we are so grateful to directly benefit from such financial assistance in our great need since [his] stroke."

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. John Sitler, Upper School teacher at Menaul School (a recipient of Joy Offering funds) in Albuquerque, N. Mexico writes, "We teach that faith is to be lived out in the world. Because so many young people today see the church as building walls to isolate and separate, we at Menaul are all about opening doors to the richness of God's creation."

Please give what you are able when the offering is collected on December 24, 25 and January 1. Thank you!





Christmas Door Wreaths: Thank you Garden group for your donation!

Prayer Request:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer.

Prayers are requested this week for:

Cooper Andrews, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Susan Way and Sharon Wiggins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

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

Care Group: *The Canaan 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, Kathy Hanna-Stauffer** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

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

Thank you, all Stream Team Volunteers!

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **December 15 (for the January TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

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

Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate