

*Forest Hill Church:
Worship Service
Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/E4CK3nQIBZk>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom,
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.*

~Isaiah 35:1

PRELUDE

David Heath-Whyte
Mike Wilson

"Hush! There's a Baby"
"Christmas Jubilation"
Little Crescendos
Julie Minder, Director

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Jacques Berthier

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"
Chancel Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Baldwin Family - Lane, Nathan, Nolan and Graham

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: In a world where so many are sorrowful, God lights a candle of joy in our hearts. We wait together for a Savior, who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord:

Reader 2: "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." Romans 15:1

Sing: **O come, O come, thou healing host around whose table not can boast,
Who welcomes home the stigmatized, their rightful place now realized.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! By touching hands together all in God shall stand. (Jim Cotter Expectant)

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. 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. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 83**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***GLORIA**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

Children will leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

ANTHEM

Margaret Wells Allison

"Jesus, Jesus O What a Wonderful Child "

[Chorus]

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;

new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory!"

Let the heavens ring.

[Solo]

He was herald by the angels

Born in a lowly manger

The virgin Mary was his mother

And Joseph was his earthly father, oh

Three wise men came from afar

They were guided by a shining star

To see king Jesus where he lay

In a manger filled with hay

[Chorus]

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LESSONS

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall

become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,
Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;
Who executes justice for the oppressed; who give food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.** The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.

HYMN NO. 301

“Let Us Build a House”

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Hear what the Spirit is telling God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Very Rev. Tracey Lind

“Asking the Right Question”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

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

Cheryl Murray, soprano

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord”
My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit,
My spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Savior.
He that is mighty hath done to me great things.
And Holy, holy, holy is His name!
Oh, my soul doth magnify the Lord! And my spirit,
My spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Savior!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(Stanzas 1, 3, 5)

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

Peter Tchaikovsky

“Marche”



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 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, Kathryn Himmelsteib** (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.

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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