

**THE LORD'S PRAYER  
(FIRST NATION/ INDIGENOUS VERSION)**

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe, you are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place. Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere. Give us your gift of bread day by day. Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. — *Hattie Corbett Enos, Nez Perce, Gifts of Many Cultures, 1995*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God, sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again. We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes. We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again. But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. Just like that, we begin again. Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.

**\*HYMN NO. 92**

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**SANCTUARY** (Hymn No. 701)

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

**CHARGE**

**POSTLUDE**

Traditional English Carol  
"I Saw Three Ships"

**Prayers are requested this week for:** Mark Davidson, Dorothy Herd, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney, Kitty McWilliams and Cate Monaghan.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:** Kemp Jaycox, Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Pat Musick, Roz Peters, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle and Warren Young.

**Care Groups** will assist our pastor with members' needs. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **head of the Deacons, Susan Kay Dunlap** ([susandnlp@gmail.com](mailto:susandnlp@gmail.com) or [deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

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

**Thank you, Stream Team Volunteers!** Anyone interested in helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas at [kurt@dangereddy.com](mailto:kurt@dangereddy.com).

*"And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."*

John 1: 5

- Advent means "coming or arrival," and the reason for the season is anticipation and preparation for the birth of the Christ child. These hangings are intended to create a backdrop for the season of expectation and longing for a light in the darkness and the coming of the Cosmic Christ.
- The imagery includes a star shining through the night sky illuminating the dark and vast wilderness.
- The liturgical color for advent is serum blue. Shades of blue traditionally can symbolize royalty, the coming of the King, hope, the night sky before the dawn, the sea before creation, and Mary. The gestural application and transparent quality of the paint indicate the depth of the vast darkness of Advent as we wait with expectation and longing for the birth of the savior.

*These paraments were created by Mary Ann Breisch in gratitude for the Beloved Community of Forest Hill Church and in loving memory of the Breisch's son Benjamin Breisch*



*The cover image: "Favored One" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

**FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN**

**December 1, 2024 – 11:00AM**



You may also join worship online using this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDatdMAascg>

*\*Please stand if able*

### CENTERING WORDS

*“Civil courage however can only grow out of the free responsibility of free men.” ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

### PRELUDE

West African Rhythms  
“Bolomba”  
FHC Percussion Ensemble

### WELCOME

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship

### CHORAL INTROIT

Arr. Jacques Berthier  
“Prepare the Way of the Lord”  
Chancel Choir

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

**The Troyer Dyck Family - Lara, Jeff, Henry, and Margaret**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

1. The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.
2. The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So, it has been since creation, and it will go on.
3. We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.
4. It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.
5. At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.
6. Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.
7. This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.
8. Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.
9. We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.
10. At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

11. Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.  
**Come to God's table, all who hunger for truth.**

*Congregation members, adapted from  
Joy Harjo's Perhaps the World Ends Here*

### \*HYMN NO. 88

“O, Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
(verses 1, 2, 7)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Mother God, you watch over babies and fools. We are both. Forgive us our folly and our immaturity. **You are a perfect parent, but we will never be a perfect copy of you. We ask your forgiveness for the ways in which we fall short, including our secret wrongdoings, which we confess to now, in your presence.**

### SILENCE

### \*RESPONSE (Hymn No. 91)

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The only cure for folly is spiritual redemption. **Wise and honored Mother, through your Son we are redeemed.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*GLORIA (Hymn No. 582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
(sing twice)*

*Children are invited to leave the sanctuary with  
their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.*

### ANTHEM

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns  
“Patiently Have I Waited for the Lord”  
Madelaine Matej, soprano  
*Patiently have I waited for the Lord, and lo! He heard my cry.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:28  
*“When these things start to happen, stand up and hold your head high, because you are about to be liberated!”  
~ Complete Jewish Bible*

*After the reading*

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Elder Ajah Hales  
“The End of the World as We Know It”

### FRIENDSHIP REGISTER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

By texting: 216-400-5300  
You may give online with PayPal, Credit or Debit Card:  
[www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)  
Or you may also mail a check to the church office.  
Make Your Pledge for 2025 using the QR code below.



### OFFERTORY

Irwin Shung  
“Sing to the Lord”  
Chancel Choir

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*HYMN NO. 507

“Come to the Table of Grace”

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Now, in this holy season of Advent, God comes to be with you. **God comes to be with you as well.** As we begin our journey to Bethlehem, let us open our hearts to God. **For God will fill them with strength and courage for the journey.** Let us join our voices in singing praise to God. **We will lift glad songs of joy to the One who is coming to us.**