

POINSETTIAS

Barbara Hansen: In loving memory of my husband, Lamont Hansen; my mother, Ethel VanFleet; my son-in-law, Mark Davidson.

Cate Monaghan: In Thanksgiving for Grace Uhle and Doris Allen.

Chris and Dave Bell: With love to family and friends.

Cliff and Jane Kowall: In memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul and Dorothy Kowall.

David and Linda Rainey: In memory of loved ones.

Derry & Kathy Hanna Stauffer: Remembering Stauffer and Hanna parents.

Ed Gernerchak and Sally Wile: In memory of our parents Frank, Virginia, Ed, and Robin who loved Christmas.

Peter and Ann Williams: To be dedicated to our mothers, Betty Williams and Dorothy Sawyer.

Stephen Sedam & Virginia Weiss: In honor of the loving support given by the community at Forest Hill Church, and in thanksgiving for the remarkable life and spirit of Kemp Jaycox.

The Breisch Family: In memory of Ben Breisch.

The Deaville and Young Families: In loving memory of Robert and Ginny Young.

The Finn Family: In memory of our loved ones.

Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias that add beauty to our sanctuary.

Special thanks to everyone who participated in worship!

Thank you to John Hammer for playing flute this evening!

Our worship services are live streamed and recorded. If you do not wish to appear in the video, please sit in the balcony or in the area on the side of the chancel, by the Big Teddy Bear in the rocking chair.

Please return candles to baskets at the exits.

Church offices will be closed for Christmas.

Christmas Door Wreaths: Thank you, Hilltop Garden Club, for your donation!

Prayer Request: To request prayers for a personal concern, please email the church office (office@fhcpresb.org).

Prayers are requested this week for: Janet Dauer, Dorothy Herd, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney, Chiquitia Montgomery, Twanda Patterson and the family of Pat Jenkins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Kemp Jaycox, Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Pat Musick, Roz Peters, 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** (susandnp@gmail.com or 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.

3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
Office: 216-321-2660

Custodian on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: churchadmin@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

The Rev. Carol Wedell, Gap Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music



The cover image: "Joseph's Dream" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
The liturgy: A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

December 24, 2024 – 5:00PM



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpHenPt8jal>

**Please stand if able*

PRELUDE

“I Saw Three Ships”
QinYing Tan, organ

arr. Dan Edwards

CHORAL INTROIT

“I Adore You”
Little Crescendos
Julie Minder, Director

Pam Andrews

WELCOME

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Bissett Family

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

**Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace.
Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.**

Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name. Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle. For surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born. A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Carleton Stock

There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you are tired and lost or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing,

“Be not afraid.”

The angels are singing,

“Good news and great joy!”

So, come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

***HYMN NO. 133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(vs. 1, 2, & 3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like

that. Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith, the angels are singing: unto you a child is born. It is a love that is personal. It is a love that knows your name. So, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: You are seen. You are claimed. You are forgiven. You are loved. **Glory to God in the highest heaven! Glory to God here and now. Alleluia! Amen.**

ANTHEM

arr. Dan Forrest

“The Friendly Beasts”

Em Ezell, Laura Minder, Jack Lentz, Greg Scruggs
John Hammer, flute

V. 1 Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts around Him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good
V. 2 I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown, “I carried His mother uphill and down, I carried His mother to Bethlehem town; I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

V. 3 “I,” said the cow, all white and red, “I gave Him my manger for his bed, I gave Him hay to pillow His head; I,” said the cow, all white and red.

V. 4 “I,” said the sheep with curly horn, “I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm, He wore my coat on Christmas morn; I,” said the sheep with curly horn.

V. 5 “I,” said the dove, from the rafters high, I cooed Him to sleep that he should not cry, we cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I; I,” said the dove, from the rafters high.

V. 6 The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. Thus all the beasts by some good spell, in the stable dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Emmanuel. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

SCRIPTURE READING

Violet and Clementine Majot

Luke: 2:1-20

HOMILY

The Rev. Carol Wedell

“Love Knows Your Name”

***HYMN NO. 134**

“Joy to The World”
(vs. 1, 2, & 4)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father Mother, 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.

OFFERING

By texting: 216-400-5300

You may give online with PayPal, Credit or Debit Card:

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

Audrey Assad

“Winter Snow”

Jack Lentz, tenor

You could've come like a mighty storm

With all the strength of a hurricane

You could've come like a forest fire

With the power of heaven in Your flame

But You came like a winter snow

Quiet and soft and slow

Falling from the sky in the night

To the Earth below

Oh, You could've swept in like a tidal wave

Or a big ocean to ravish our hearts

You could have come through like a roaring flood

To wipe away the things that we've scarred

Oh, but He came like a winter snow

So quiet, so soft, so slow

Falling from the sky in the night

To the Earth below, oh-oh, oh-oh

Ooh, no, Your voice wasn't in a bush burning

No, Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind

It was still, so small

It was hidden, ooh

You came like a winter snow

So quiet, so soft, so slow

Falling from the sky in the night

To the Earth below

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN NO. 122**

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

***BENEDICTION AND CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

Felix Mendelssohn

“Allegro”
QinYing Tan, organ