



# FAIRMOUNT

PRESBYTERIAN Church

Sunday, December 10, 2023

11:00 a.m.



*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.*

*Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.*

~Luke 1:46-55

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023, 11:00am**

**PRELUDE**

*Nöel with Variations  
Shepherds came, their praises bringing  
Greensleeves*

*Claude Louis Balbastre  
Helmut Walcha  
Richard Purvis*

**STATIO**

Statio is a "holy pause"—a period of intentional quiet before worship to gather together as one body with one spirit. At the end of our statio, you will hear the bell toll three times, and then you are invited to remain seated and sing our Gathering Hymn.

**HYMN 90**

*Wait for the Lord*

*WAIT FOR THE LORD*

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*Today we light the second candle, remembering that God invites us to RESIST.*

**\*HYMN 100** (stanza 2)

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

*STAR OF COUNTY DOWN*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Exodus 7, selected verses*

**ANTHEM**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Michael Praetorius/arr Earlene Rentz*

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung, it came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night. (15th century German)*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 1:46-55*

**MEDITATION**

*Praise for God's Resistance!*

**\*HYMN** (sung by congregation)

*Singing Is Resistance*

*CAROL*

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God,  
For he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
From now all generations will call me blessed,  
For she has done great things for me, and holy is their name.  
  
He has brought down the powerful and lifted up the low;  
He filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.  
He comes to aid his children, remembering those of old.  
The promise made in ages past at last has come to be.  
  
For singing is resistance against injustice we see;  
We sing the truth for all to hear—in peace may all be free!  
Come quickly Jesus to the world, we need the rest you bring;  
To witness to a weary world the song that Mary sings.*

*(Text by Jim Riggs, copyright December 2023)*

## CALL TO OFFERING

## MOMENT FOR MISSION

Izzy Seelbach

## OFFERTORY

*Laudamus Te (Gloria)*

Antonio Vivaldi

*(Sung in Latin). We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee.*

## \*DOXOLOGY #150 (stanza 3)

DIX

*As they offered gifts most rare at your manger, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sins' alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly king.*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## 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.

## \*HYMN 88 (Stanzas 1, 2, 6, & 7)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

## \*CHARGE

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Hymn #90

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

## POSTLUDE

*Noël Polonais*

Alexander Guilmant

(Variations on an Ancient Polish Carol)

## Music Notes:

Our worship begins and ends with Noëls by French organists. Claude Louis Balbastre (1729-1798) was a French organist, harpsichordist and composer. Famous for his Noëls, so many people came every year to Saint Roch at Midnight Mass that the Archbishop of Paris had to prohibit him from playing, because of the noise. Balbastre sets "Joseph is well married" in a set of variations that use many sounds of the organ.

The blind German organist and composer Helmut Walcha (1907-1991) setting of "Quem pastores" calls for high-pitched flute stops, giving the work a charmingly light texture.

"Greensleeves" is our Sabbath playlist piece for this week. Richard Purvis (1913-1994) is remembered for his expressive recordings of the organ classics and his own lighter compositions for the instrument. "Greensleeves" was composed in a foxhole under enemy fire during WWII.

After a grand introduction, Alexander Guilmant (1837-1911) offers four short variations on the Polish carol, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly."

## **This Morning at Fairmount**

**Nursery Care:** While children are always welcome in our worship services, parents can also drop their children ages 0-5 in our Nursery (located on the 2nd floor above Andersen Hall) before worship. The nursery will be open at 10:45 a.m. most Sundays and parents can pick up their children after worship.

Around the sanctuary, you'll find worship bags, books, and pages to color. The "wigggle room" is located in the narthex. You can change a diaper, nurse your child, and little ones can experience a change of pace.

### **Coffee Hour**

Coffee hour in Andersen Hall is where we extend the fellowship that begins in worship; it's a time for us to visit with one another, deepen our relationships, and welcome newcomers. Join us!

### **Ways to Give**

#### **Text**

Text "FPCCLE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

#### **Call**

216.321.5800

#### **Realm**

<https://onrealm.org/FairmountPresby/give/now>

#### **Mail**

2757 Fairmount Blvd  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## **Fairmount Presbyterian Church Leadership**

### **Session**

Gordon Landefeld, Clerk of Session  
Megan Bennett, President

Todd Imbler, Vice President  
Rob Faxon, Treasurer

For a full list of our Fairmount leadership, visit [fpccle.org/our-leadership/](http://fpccle.org/our-leadership/)

## **Fairmount Presbyterian Church Staff**

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**Learn More About Our Congregation**  
[www.fpccle.org](http://www.fpccle.org)

## **Special Announcements**

### **Sanctuary Flowers**

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of mother and daughter, Nora Castle and Kate Elizabeth Castle.

### **Calling Poinsettia Deliverers**

Care Council is honoring Fairmounters 80 years and older this Advent with a poinsettia. Fairmounters are asked to stop in Andersen Hall on Sunday, December 10th, and take a poinsettia to someone 80 and up. Also, those who are in church and are 80 years and older, are invited to get their poinsettia. Please wear a mask when delivering a poinsettia. The deliveries will be organized by city.

### **Fairmount Presbyterian Church Building Assessment**

The good news is that overall, the study has found that our building is in very good shape, however, it did identify several areas of concern that will need to be addressed, some as soon as possible and others that can be addressed over the next several years. The Building & Grounds Committee of Admin Council is currently evaluating the study to develop a realistic plan of action. You will be hearing more about the assessment and the steps being taken to address the findings over the next several months. The study itself is quite large and cannot be e-mailed. If you would like to stop in and review the report, we will have a few copies available. If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christine Winters or Todd Imbler ([toddimbler@att.net](mailto:toddimbler@att.net)).

### **2024 Stewardship**

In 2024 we hope to reach \$750,000 in pledges to give us the resources needed to support this thriving church. It is important to pledge so that we can best prepare for the exciting mission of our church heading into 2024. You can find a pledge card in your pew.

### **Advent**

Make sure to pick up an Advent calendar in Andersen Hall, then pick up an Advent Spiritual Formation Kit in Andersen Hall. This year, we have different Advent kits for you to practice Slow Advent with our focus *Rest Is Resistance: Our Urgent Need for Sabbath*. We hope these kits will support you in slowing down and finding real rest. Discover more about Advent at Fairmount, visit <https://bit.ly/FPC23Advent>.

### **Blue Christmas Service**

**Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.**

For those who are experiencing grief of any kind, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. This service provides a space of calm, quiet, and healing.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

**4:00 p.m. (family worship) – 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve is one of the most joyous and beautiful worship services of the year, where we celebrate God among us in Jesus Christ.

Each service will have candlelight and carols and will be [live streamed](#).

### **Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications**

The dedication deadline is **Friday, December 15th**.

### **Advent Book Discussion: *Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto***

On Sunday, December 17, after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we'll gather in the Ganson Room to discuss [Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto](#) by Tricia Hersey, founder of *The Nap Ministry*. The book asks us to consider how we rest and create boundaries for ourselves and resist what she calls the "grind culture". We encourage you to purchase and read the book, come, and participate. [Fill out the form](#) to let us know you will be attending. You can find the link to the form in our online announcements.

## **Music Ministry**

### **Extended Prelude December 17th.**

Next Sunday, the prelude will be by the Regis Bookshar Trumpet Ensemble, beginning at 10:50 a.m.

### **Fairmount Bell Choir at Van Aken!**

Come hear the Fairmount Bell Choir playing holiday favorites at the Van Aken District on Friday, December 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

## **Serving Our Community**

### **Help Stock Our Little Free Pantry**

Cold weather is upon us and food insecurity is prevalent throughout our community. The LFP is a Fairmount ministry which responds to this need through our donations of non-perishable food and personal care items. We invite everyone to extend the hand of caring by participating in a month-long drive this Advent season. The pantry is especially in need of soups, cereals/oatmeal, pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese, and canned fruits and vegetables. Please bring your donations throughout Advent (December 10-24) to Anderson Hall marked LFP. Thank you.

## **For Children, Youth, and Families**

**WE Time:** Most Sundays, children in Pre-K through 3rd grade in Room 214 and nursery care available for children under 5 in the Wiggle Room.

**The Fairmount Labyrinth:** We invite you to come and walk the labyrinth in the side lawn whenever you have a few free moments in your day. We hope you will consider incorporating this into your sabbath practices.

**Full Announcements and registration links can be found at <https://bit.ly/fpc-announcements> or scan the QR code**



## **Who is Fairmount?**

We are a **Matthew 25 Congregation**—a church committed to dismantling systemic racism and eradicating structural poverty in our community.

We are an **Earth Care Congregation**—a church committed to caring for all of God's creation through our worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

We are a **More Light Congregation**—a church committed to the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in life, ministry, and witness of church and our wider community.