



FAIRMOUNT

PRESBYTERIAN Church



Sunday, December 1st, 2024
11:00 AM

Prelude

Sleeper, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us, BWV 645
Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach
Dietrich Buxtehude

Statio

Call to Worship

*Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

Advent Candles

Where is God's Kingdom?

God's kingdom isn't coming with signs that are easily noticed. Nor will people say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' Don't you see? The kingdom of God is within you.

Response to Prayer

CRADLE SONG

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you, as roses,
the light. Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage. One candle is lit for the *hope* of the age.

**Passing of the Hope*

Statio

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

John 3:1-3

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-30

Sermon

A Born Again Christmas

**Affirmation of Faith*

We seek to awaken in ourselves the deepest, most original shape of our humanity. To be born again is not to become somebody else, but to become ourselves as God made us. Our journey to the truth of God cannot be parsed from our journey to the truth of who we are.

And so we will end our anxious striving to become today what God will make of us tomorrow. Because to be born again is not a singular event, but a lifelong pilgrimage toward the sound of the genuine in each of us. We will free ourselves from the need to achieve anything, and instead quiet our own desires so that the Love of God can become incarnate in us and through us.

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heave, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, from time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and in glory, He will rule with mercy and truth, hope of the nations, light of all the world. He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms. Love him and trust him as a child, behold, your Lord comes to you.
(Adapted from Isaiah 40)

Doxology 609 and Prayer of Dedication

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Prayer of Jesus

**Our Beloved Creator,
who lives in the eternal,
your name is Love.**

**May Love rule our hearts
here and now,
as it will in the eternal.**

**Give us the gift of enough for today.
Release us from our burdens and lead us back to you,
that we may liberate others by our love.**

**Protect our hearts from other desires,
and rescue us from suffering.**

Amen.

Music at Communion

O Nata Lux

Morten Lauridsen

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici,
Tui beati corporis.

O born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
For the sake of the lost ones,
grant us to be made members
of your holy body.

***Hymn 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

***Charge**

***Sung Benediction**

Go Now in Peace

Natalie Sleeth

(Sung once by the Joyful Noise and then once by the congregation)

**Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Participating in Worship:

Kate Bouldin, Director of Youth and Young Adult Spiritual Formation

Rev. Andrew Genszler, Pastor

Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Pastor

Lisa Nester, Seminary Pastoral Intern

Jim Riggs, Director of Music Ministries

Rev. Ryan Wallace, Pastor

Dr. Tyler Young, Digital Engineer

Jack Naglick, Organ Scholar

The Intergenerational PopUp Choir

The Joyful Noise

The Chamber Choir

December 1, 2024 Announcements



Worship Today:

10:15 a.m. Intergenerational Pop Up Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Breaking Bread worship in the Sanctuary and Online

12:00 p.m. Breaking Bread community meal

12:00 p.m. Ministry of Notes note writing

Music Notes:

As we begin our Advent journey today, you will hear two German Chorales. "The Six Schubler Chorales" consists of transcriptions of movements from Bach's church cantatas. "Sleepers Wake" (hymnal # 349) is from the fourth movement of Cantata No. 140, scored for strings with the tenor section of the chorus singing the chorale tune (heard on a reed stop of the organ today). It was the young Bach who traveled by foot to hear Buxtehude play. "Savior of the Nations, Come" (hymnal # 102) is an ornamented choral prelude, meaning the melody is often hidden by notes moving up and down around the chorale. A fragment of the chorale is heard in the pedal half way through the piece.

Next Sunday, December 8th, "Comfort Ye & Every Valley" from Handel's beloved "Messiah" will be sung by our two wonderful tenors. (Jim Riggs, Director of Music Ministries)

Don't miss Candlelight Carols on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Choirs, handbells, strings, oboe, trumpet, percussion and the 100-rank Schantz organ usher in the season with an array of music. Admission is free. You are invited to bring a non-perishable food item to stock our free food pantry.

CityMusic in concert on Thursday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairmount sanctuary. Music of Beethoven. Free, donations are accepted at the door. www.citymusiccleveland.org

Upcoming Events

Honest Advent

Advent is almost here, and according to Scott Erickson, the author of *Honest Advent*, the way to awaken to God's presence in our midst is to nurture our sense of wonder. This season, we are inviting Fairmounters to read Erickson's simple 25 readings for Advent and Christmas to do just that! While Honest Advent's chapters are very short and easy to read, they are powerful. You will find provocative imagery and words that make Advent more honest, as the title suggests. Each daily reading promises to open our hearts, moving us to slow down and encounter the holy — right here. Starting this Sunday, December 1st, pick up a copy at church and begin your honest Advent journey!

Listening for the Secret Voice of the Spirit:

A Time for Silence, Contemplation, and Communion

Wednesdays Dec 4th, 11th, and 18th, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

"It is not enough to remain the same 'self' ...with a new set of activities and a new lot of religious practices...even the good side of activism has tended toward an overemphasis on will, on action, on conquest, on 'getting things done,' and this in turn has resulted in a sort of religious restlessness, pragmatism, and the worship of visible results. There is another essential aspect of Christianity: the interior, the silent, the contemplative...in which love replaces the will to get visible results. The [Human One] was not a one-sided and aggressive activist, he also had depth, he was able to be silent, to listen to the secret voice of the Spirit. He renounced his own will to dominate and let the Spirit act secretly in and through him."

The 100th Anniversaries of Cleveland's NELA Park Christmas Light Display and the National Christmas Tree on Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Join Fairmount for a Sparkling Holiday Conversation! The William Birkett Williams Committee invites you to this spectacular holiday lecture here at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Get ready for an afternoon of holiday magic as we welcome two captivating speakers: Debby George, celebrated designer of Cleveland's NELA Park holiday lighting for 22 years, sharing her experience and stories behind this iconic display; and Jeff Carter, enthusiast and collector of historic Christmas lights, presenting insights from his documentary commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Christmas Tree.

Be inspired by the stories behind two of America's most cherished holiday traditions. This event is perfect for holiday light lovers, history buffs, and anyone who cherishes the season's wonder. Don't miss out on this colorful, electrifying afternoon! Fairmount family, if you are staying after worship for this lecture, the William Birkitt Williams Committee invites you to a luncheon before the presentation. Please scan the QR code to R.S.V.P.



Poinsettia Dedications

Each Advent season, through your generous contributions in memory and in honor of loved ones, we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship services. We ask you to complete the 2024 Poinsettia Dedication form (scan the QR code). You may also email your dedication requests to Christine Winters, cwinters@fpccl.org. Please give \$10.00 per dedication. Payment may be made through Realm, or drop off cash or check to the church office. Due to mail delays we suggest you DO NOT mail your Poinsettia Dedication form or payment. If the mail arrives late, we cannot guarantee your dedication for inclusion. Paper forms are in Andersen Hall.

THE DEADLINE for Poinsettia dedications is Sunday, December 15, 2024.



Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service

Tuesday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m.

[Plymouth UCC](#), 2860 Coventry Rd, Shaker Heights

Although the season of Advent is joyful for many, we also know that the holiday season can be drenched in fatigue, grief, and loneliness. We hope you will join us for a special candlelit service for gentle reflection of our grief and weariness; a reminder that none of us is alone. Together we will name the loss we feel while also leaning into the hope we have in Christ.

December 24th Christmas Eve Worship

A Born Again Christmas

What if...instead of thinking of the incarnation as a singular miraculous event that happened many centuries ago, we began to live as if the incarnation was possible every day in and through each of us?

- 4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Music: soloists and instrumentalists
- 10:00 p.m. Music: Fairmount Choir and Fairmount Bell Choir

Full Announcements can be found at <https://fpccl.org/blog/>