



FAIRMOUNT

PRESBYTERIAN Church



"Ordinary Glory" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

**Artwork description on page 7*

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24, 2021
7:30pm & 10:00pm

2757 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

216.321.5800 - www.fpccl.org - info@fpccl.org

#fpccl

Christmas Eve Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Christmas Carols

Konrad Binienda, organ

Fairmount Bell Choir (7:30pm)

*Ding, Dong Merrily on High
Carol of the Bells
Little Drummer Boy*

WELCOME

Rev. Jessie MacMillan, Interim Senior Pastor

CENTERING MUSIC:

Lo, How a Rose Ever Blooming

FPC Section Leaders

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jessie MacMillan & Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited -

All: to carry Christ into this world.

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited -

All: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

One: The shepherds were invited -

All: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

One: The Magi were invited -

All: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

One: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited -

All: then we can trust that we too are invited.

One: This story is for us.

All: This love is for us.

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

All: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*CAROL 133 (verses 1, 3, 4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Family of faith, even when we fail to trust God's love, and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door *never* closes. So hear and believe this good news:

All: God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come

by P. Manz

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*CAROL 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL

Lullaby for Jesus

Lauren Vanden Broeck (soloist)

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

***CAROL 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

"Invited Home"

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

SOLO

O Holy Night

*Xiaoge Xiang (7:30pm)
Alicia Hrubey (10:00pm)*

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

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.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" (Refrain)*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]*

Refrain:

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King" (2x)***

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious God, your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

Offering baskets are located at sanctuary entrances, or you can give online at our website, www.fpccle.org/giving.

ANTHEM*O Magnum Mysterium**Morten Lauridsen*

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile
sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!*

*Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt,
Beata Virgo, portare Dominum Christum.
O magnum mysterium, Alleluia!*

Translation:

*O great mystery, and wonderful
sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!*

*Blessed is the virgin whose womb was
worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ.
O great mystery, Alleluia!*

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Please take your candle and share the light of Christ with your neighbors. Hold your candle upright, while your neighbor lights their candle. Children are invited to activate glow sticks.

CAROL 122*Silent Night, Holy Night**Stille Nacht*

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

CHARGE AND BLESSING***CAROL 134** (vs. 1 & 4)*Joy to the World**ANTIOCH*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

POSTLUDE*"God is Born"**Konrad Binienda, organ*

Adapted from a liturgy from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Sound recording and production by Jason Jedlicka

Sound booth volunteers- Mike Chevraux and Grant Gannon

Thank you to all our amazing Christmas Eve Volunteers!

Fairmount Choir

Soprano

Carol Adrine
Susan Bookshar
Lauren Vanden Broeck
Nora Chevroaux
Rosalind Coles
Mia Faxon
Molly McFadden
Vicki Mentrek
Sophie Mintsiveris
Becky Zeigler

Alto

Lee Eckles
Wrean Fiebig
Alicia Hrubey
Amy Seekely
Xiaoge Zhang

Bass

Rob Faxon
Al Glickson
Brian McFadden
Logan Skelly
Sam Wetzel

Tenor

Micheal Lada
Shaun McGrath
Pete McWilliams
John Zitzner

Fairmount Bell Choir

Andrew Borchert-Isaacs	Peter Scheid
Anne Borchert	Amy Seekely
Amy Carlson	Bryan Seekely
Vicki Mentrek	Leslie Walker
Barbara Petersen	Becky Zeigler
Debby Punshon	

Christmas Eve Candle Lighters:

Raleigh, Bill, Hunter, Sibby, and Woods Duttweiler (5:00pm)
Amy Carlson, Peter Scheid and Becky Zeigler (7:30pm)
Bryan, Amy, Brett Seekley (10:00pm)

Christmas Eve Liturgists: Ethan Roberts, Bobby Berglund (5:00pm)

Usher Team: Todd Imbler, Melda Graves, Carl Hoffman, Mike Chevroaux

Building Team: Vicki Mentrek, Danielle Everette

Thank You to all who made this Advent Season Special!

Welcome Center Staff and Volunteers: Angela Williams, Jan Spalding, Judy Steehler, Patsy Lease, Patty Forsberg

Sunday Sanctuary Team: Melda Graves, Jane Reynolds

Advent Creative Content: Mallory Kent, Odin Black

Custodial: Michael Higgins

Electrician: Jon Miquet

A Big Thank You to the FPC Staff!

ONLINE SANCTUARY

The Online Sanctuary will be open for the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service for all who wish to join us. Are you unable to get to church? Do you miss your Fairmount community? Come worship with us in the Online Sanctuary! Peter and Brenda Horth will be hosting a zoom worship meeting during the livestream on Christmas Eve during the **5:00pm service**. There will be time for greeting before and after worship as well. If you need technical help or have questions, contact Brenda Horth at brendamhorth@gmail.com. The Online Sanctuary is available every Sunday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85628648447?pwd=ZFBmMytFTFhzQlZJMzMmRlO1Q1g0QT09>

Meeting ID: 856 2864 8447

Passcode: 423623

SERVICE BY PHONE

We want to let you know of another way you can connect to our weekly worship services – by phone! All you have to do is call 216-255-9353 and you will be able to hear a recording of our Sunday worship service. The Christmas Eve service will be available on Christmas Day.

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Fairmount Presbyterian Church by clicking the Giving tab on the homepage of our website (<https://fpccle.org/giving-and-stewardship/>).

Momentum is building wonderfully in our 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Thank you. The spirit of advent is moving among us! We have 133 pledges amounting to \$576,000, or 82% of our goal. Thank you to those of you who have remembered to submit a pledge so far. If you haven't had a chance to, please visit Fairmount's website, listed above, where you can make a pledge or bring in your pledge card to church, or simply call the church office at 216-321-5800 and we can record your pledge over the phone. Thank you for all of the ways you give!

Sunday, December 26th, 11:00am, - First Sunday of Christmas

The First Sunday of Christmas Worship will be presented virtually by the Synod of the Covenant and The Michigan Black Presbyterian Caucus. **There will be no in person worship at Fairmount on Sunday, December 26th.** The First Sunday of Christmas worship can be viewed on the following platforms:

Our Website, <https://fpccle.org/online-worship/>

On Our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/fairmountchurch>

On Our YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/YouTube-fpccle>

Sunday, January 2nd - Second Sunday of Christmas

Only one worship service at 11:00am

Special Guest Preacher, Rev. Steve Gorman

Welcome to Fairmount Presbyterian Church

WELCOME!

Fairmount Presbyterian Church warmly welcomes everyone to worship today! Check in to this evening's worship service - whether you are in the pews of our sanctuary, or watching online at home - we want to hear from you! Using your smart phone or tablet, simply scan the QR code.



CARING FOR ALL

In accordance with CDC guidelines, and in order to caretake for the most vulnerable in our community, we ask that you wear your mask at all times while inside the church building. Thank you for helping us ensure the health and safety of all members of our community. This evening the pastors will not be greeting after the service due to an increase of COVID-19 in our area. As an added precaution, we ask that you refrain from mingling in common spaces.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

We have Loop capabilities and assisted listening devices available for the sanctuary. Hearing Assistance devices are available from an usher.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like your prayer listed in our weekly Fairmount Prayer List which is sent to our prayer community, fill out the form at <https://fpccle.org/prayer-request-form/>. You can also call or email Pastor Lindsay, (lindsayhl@fpccle.org, 216-321-5800 ext. 105) with prayer concerns or to talk to a Pastor.

THE SANCTUARY "WIGGLE ROOM"

As we gather for worship, we welcome the "joyful noise" that young children and families bring together. As you can see around the sanctuary, there are Worship Bags for the children to use, books to read, and pages to color during the service. We would also like to introduce our "Wiggle Room" located in the Narthex. This is a space for families that may need a little extra room.....to change diapers, nurse, or even for a small change of pace for our little ones. Feel free to use that room whenever you need. There are toys, books, puzzles, and quiet activities for each child to enjoy while listening to worship. We want you to feel at home, to make our place your space.

FAIRMOUNT WELCOMES REV. RYAN WALLACE!

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, the congregation of Fairmount Presbyterian Church approved the call of the Rev. Ryan Wallace to be Fairmount's 10th Senior Pastor in our 105 year history. Pastor Ryan will begin his service at Fairmount in late February. Please join us in praising God for this exciting transition and in praying for our new pastor, his wife Amanda, and their children Mae, Silas and Cece. Learn more about Rev. Wallace and on how the FPC Pastor Nominating Committee chose Rev. Wallace. Visit <https://bit.ly/RevRyanWallace>.

Pastor Jessie will continue serving as our Interim Senior Pastor until her last Sunday on February 6, 2022, as is typical for an interim to leave a few weeks before the settled pastor arrives.



THE 2022 FAITHFUL LIVES FILM SERIES (26TH YEAR)

This year, the sub theme is "Faith in Pandemics and Other Times of Disaster". The movies are shown the 2nd Friday evening of the month, January through May, at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Please arrive by 6:30pm. All films begin promptly at 6:45pm. Pizza and popcorn will be provided. Please bring your own side and utensils as well as your drink of choice. For more information, contact Bryan Seekely, bseek57@aol.com. Our 2022 Faithful Lives Film Series kicks off on Friday, January 14th, with the movie *The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story*. Rev. Jessie MacMillan will lead the discussion.

The 2022 Faithful Lives Film Series Movies:

January 14th - *The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story*

February 11th - *The American Experience: Influenza 1918*

March 11th - *Joan of Arc*

April 8th - *50/50*

May 13th - *Killing Kasztner*

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Give the Gift of Spiritual Enrichment

If you're still looking for a few last minute gifts, consider giving one of their upcoming winter CEIRS courses to a loved one (or yourself!) Exploration awaits with *The Holy Spirit in the Bible* (Fr. George Smiga), *Thomas Merton and Ilia Delio with a Quaker Touch* (Alan Kolp, Ph.D), and a *Lenten Retreat at the Cleveland Museum of Art* (Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey).

Giving meaningful, educational experiences is one way to take a low-waste approach to holiday giving. Choosing to give a CEIRS course also supports the outstanding presenter behind the experience, and gives the recipient memories and insights to last a lifetime.

Visit: <https://ceirs.org>

Ordinary Glory

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20 | Digital painting

In this familiar narrative, what stuck out for me in this reading was the juxtaposition of human and divine, the mundane and extraordinary, the humbleness of a manger and the glory of a multitude of heavenly hosts. I wanted to image this dichotomy with the everyday, intimate, tender scene of new parents and their yawning baby, enveloped by the glittering, awe-striking magnificence of God.

The holy family is framed by an almond shape called a mandorla. Mandorlas have been used in Christian art to signify the glory of God, and can also represent the intersection and fullness of two things, like heaven and earth or spirit and body. Likely, the most familiar instance of this concept is the shape made between the overlapping circles in a Venn diagram. I wanted to use this shape because this is the moment when human and divine intersect in the person of Jesus, and when the glory of God is birthed into the world. The golden field surrounding the mandorla is filled with my interpretation of the six-winged seraphim from early Christian art, representing the heavenly hosts filling the air with tidings of peace (imaged by olive branches). A seven pointed star hangs over the heads of the family, surrounded by seven other stars, a number that represents completeness.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Fairmount Presbyterian Church Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session, Elder Gordon Landefeld
Treasurer, Matt Hrubey

Class of 2021

Carol Adrine
Raleigh Duttweiler
Gordon Landefeld
Stephanie
Washlock

Class of 2022

David Bosler
Keith Mills
Sarah Pope
Peg Zitzner

Class of 2023

Megan Bennett
Grant Gannon
Todd Imbler
Chin-Tai Kim

Deacons

Class of 2021

Peter Bush,
Mary Ann Conn-Brody
Kathy Imbler
Martha Lee
Joyce Pope
Judy Steehler
Julia Swanson

Class of 2022

Denise Benton
Susan Kent
John Kieger
Nate Kruse
Nana Landgraf
Sarah Stone

Endowment Trustees

Class of 2021

Deanna Campbell
Ian Murphy

Class of 2022

Geoff Barnes
Doris Evans
Mark Eisele

Class of 2023

Tom Roulston
John Zitzner

At Large Nominating Committee

Jim Dakin
Doris Evans (Trustee)
Todd Imbler (Elder)
Susan Kent (Deacon)
Nate Kruse (Deacon)

Kevin Petru
Christina Seekely
Jean Sylak
Barbara McWilliams
Peg Zitzner (Elder)

Personnel Committee

Amy Carlson
Gina Kashuk
Nate Kruse
Os Mills

Elder Keith Mills
Elder Sarah Pope
Vanessa Whiting (chair)

Fairmount Presbyterian Church Staff

Konrad Binienda, Interim Artistic Director/Organist
konradb@fpccle.org, x 135

Nancy Chism, Church Administrator
nchism@fpccle.org, x 124

Danielle Everette, Hospitality Associate
deverette@fpccle.org

Chris Fader, Coordinator of Children's Ministry
cedirector1@fpccle.org

Kate McFadden,
Director of Youth and Adult Spiritual Formation
kate@fpccle.org, x121

Sara Gresh, Financial Secretary
sgresh@fpccle.org, x122

Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Associate Pastor
lindsayhl@fpccle.org, x105

Peter Horth, Parish Associate
phorth@fpccle.org, x109

Jason Jedlicka, Interim Technology Coordinator
jasonj@fpccle.org, x148

Rev. Jessie MacMillan, Interim Senior Pastor
jmacmillan@fpccle.org, x 115

Christine Winters, Office Manager
cwinters@fpccle.org, x119