

- FCC Ministries
All the People
- Governing Board Chair
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- Pastor & Head of Staff
Fred Lyon
- Assistant to the Pastor for
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- Congregational Enrichment
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- Children's Ministries
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- Youth Ministries
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- Weekday Preschool
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- Communication &
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- Music Ministries
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One: After a while, I turn apologetic feet toward home,
walking my repentance back toward the sun.
And once again, God takes my breath away.
For once again, the sky's deepest void is now
a water color of light.

All: **And I am reminded that like the sky, God touches everything.
And I am reminded that like the sky, nothing is so broken
that can't be painted gold. AMEN.**

THE COMMUNITY PREPARES TO GO FORTH

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Pastoral Prayer

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. AMEN.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" David Jones, Soloist	Spiritual
*PRAISE FOR PROVIDENCE	"Lift Up Your Heads" Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you: here, Christ abide! Let me your inner presence feel: your grace and love in me reveal.	TRURO

*DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

In this season of watchfulness, O God, we thank you for the wonder of
your grace and pray that you keep us on the lookout for ways we can share
your blessings with the world around us, near and far. Whether with the
gentleness of the Christ Child or the grandeur of our Sovereign Savior, stir
up our generosity such that we are equipped and emboldened to confront
sin and sorrow with comfort and joy. AMEN.

*HYMN # 176	"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"	TRURO
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*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE	"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" David Jones, Organ	Widmar
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Our service has ended, let our serving begin.
Before you leave, please greet those around you in a spirit of
warm welcome and fellowship.

Inspired by the Risen Christ
We
Seek — Connect — Serve



Flossmoor Community Church

DECEMBER 8, 2019

Welcome Visitors...

We pray that in the Spirit of Christ, our worship will be a blessing that inspires you to go out and serve. A special welcome to all guests — we are graced by your presence!

We invite you to talk with those around you as well as the Worship Leaders, and hope you will stop by the Information Desk in the Gathering Space (just outside the Sanctuary) where you will find a host to answer questions about opportunities for ministry and mission at FCC.

Please sign the red Friendship Pad found in the pew rack and mark if you would like to receive more information about FCC, and feel free to call the church office at (708) 798-2800.

— Pastor Fred

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with You!

Please read through the bulletin to be familiar with the flow of the service. Once in the sanctuary, everyone is invited to observe reverent silence that encourages quiet prayer, reflection, and listening to the Prelude.

— Thank You!

Your cooperation in silencing cell phones is greatly appreciated.

* please stand as you are able

Please Note:

Large print bulletins and music sheets are available from an usher.

Flossmoor Community Church
Second Sunday in Advent

This year our Advent theme is “What Can’t Wait? Advent is a season of waiting. But is idle waiting what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together—what things can’t wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can’t wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation, proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, we are invited to imagine, prioritize, and prepare. As we wait, what can’t? —Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art

The Candles of Advent will lift up the urgency of Hope, Repentance, Joy, and Courage. Today we consider Repentance.

Words for Silent Meditation and Prayer Before Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who live in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

~Isaiah 9:2~

PRELUDE “Prelude” and “Fugue” Ferdin, Fischer David Jones, Organ

GREETINGS IN CHRIST Pastor Fred Lyon

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP from Matthew 3:2, 3c One: Repent, for the reign of heaven is at hand. All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

CALL TO WORSHIP Lori Tozer One: Prepare the way! All: Let us repent and turn our hearts toward the light of the world. One: Prepare the way! All: Let us open the doors our hearts to sing songs of adoration. One: Prepare the way! All: Let us make space in our hearts for a new kind of love. One: For Christ is coming. All: Let us prepare the way! adapted from Sarah Are

ADVENT PROCESSIONAL “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE CANDLE OF REPENTANCE One: Today we light the Candle of Repentance as a reminder of our need to turn our lives toward the way of Jesus. All: May the power of repentance kindle inner light that keeps us away from darkness. May the light of this candle burn inside us—inspiring hope and action in expectation of Christ’s promised return.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE Siloam Epperson

*HYMN #156 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” PUER NOBIS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Betsy Hanzelin Even as we anticipate Christmas Day, too often we live as those who are more in step with the hype of Madison Avenue than the salvation of a humble manger. Too often we live as the world teaches—watching out for ourselves much more than we watch out for opportunities to care for our neighbor. Stop us in our tracks, O God, and fill us with repentance that nerves us to live and love according to your will...

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS One: In Christ is life, All: and this life is the light of all people. One: The light shines in the darkness, All: and the darkness has and will not overcome it. One: Friends, believe the good news: All: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. AMEN! adapted from John 1:4-5

*GRATITUDE FOR GRACE “Lift Up Your Heads” TRURO Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with praise and love and joy.

THE COMMUNITY HEARS THE WORD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP & FAITH FAMILY MATTERS Pastor Search Committee Update Chris Dolan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3:1-12 Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. Praise to you, O Christ!

Please enter a moment of silence to contemplate the reading.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*THE PEACE based on Isaiah 9:6 One: For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And his name shall be: All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Protector, Prince of Peace. Children: The peace of Christ be with you all! All: And also with you!

Please greet those around you, saying, “The Peace of Christ!” as you shake hands, exchange hugs, or extend other signs of friendship.

MESSAGE “What Can’t Wait? Repentance” Pastor Fred

Please enter a moment of silence to contemplate the message.

Poetry Prayer adapted from Sarah Are One: Sometimes, while the dawn sky is still dark, I go for a walk. Step by step I ask my deepest questions, while the sky lets go of its deepest dark blue. All: Am I doing enough? Ink to Indigo. Am I trustworthy enough? Indigo to navy. Am I loving enough? Navy to royal blue. Am I repentant enough? Royal blue to gold.

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”