

# Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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**Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors**

**Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's  
Ministries**

**Anne Wilson, Director of Music**

*Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming*

*Service of Worship*  
*March 31, 2019 at 11:00 am*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.  
Please join us in wearing a nametag so that we might greet you.  
Our ushers have large print editions of the bulletin and  
directions to our nursery for babies and young children.

*Prayer of Preparation*

*Be glad in the Lord and rejoice,  
O righteous  
And shout for joy, all you upright in heart.  
Psalm 32:11*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Ralph Vaughan Williams

“Rhosymedre”

Fern Jennings, guest organist

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**Call to Worship**

Sheryl Dugard

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God’s presence with singing!**

Let us worship God!

**\* Processional Hymn No. 267**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

*\*please stand as able*

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Kyrie eleison** (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Bell

## Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

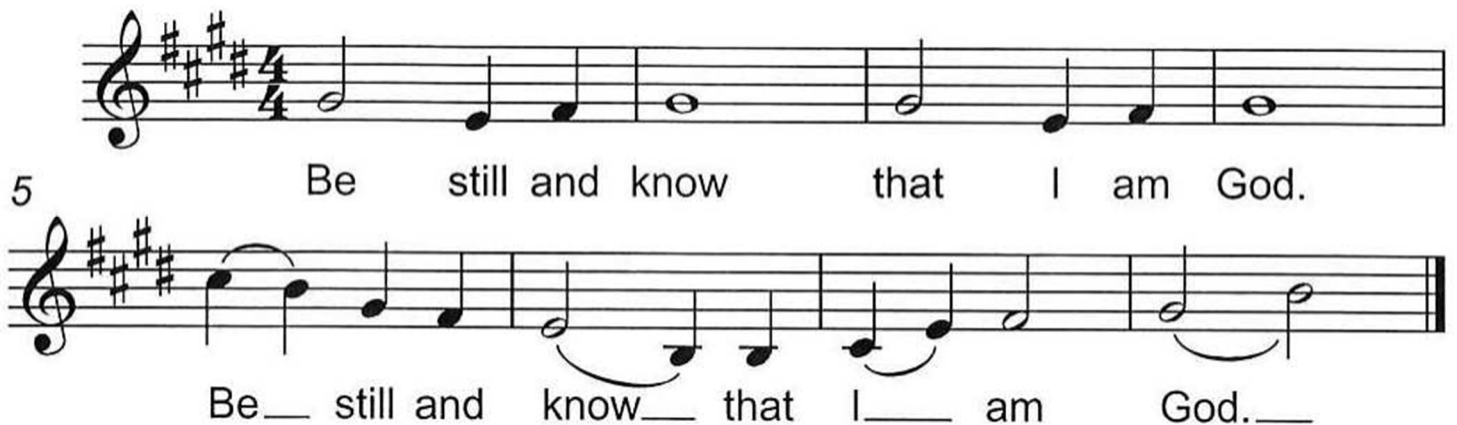
### Assurance of Pardon

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. We will live as those who have been raised to new life! Thanks be to God!

### \*Be Still and Know

John Bell

All sing first time; 2<sup>nd</sup> time lower voices begin;  
upper voices begin 1 measure later



### Anthem

spiritual, arr. Harold Moyer

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Seth Ungemach, conductor

## Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

### Children's Moment

Rev. David Wigger

*Children are welcome to stay up front for a quiet activity during the sermon*

### \* Hymn No. 175

“Seek Ye First”

### Scripture Lessons

Sheryl Dugard

### 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he

made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

15Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3So he told them this parable:

11Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. 25“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are

always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

*After the readings*

Leader: Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Ambassadors for Christ”

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord’s Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)**

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, pain-bearer, life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

**Ritual of Friendship**

*Children may return to their families*

**Offering**

**Offertory**

words and music by Mary Ann Breisch

“Only a Cross”

(See page 12 for the lyrics)

**\* Response**

Hymn No. 697

5 Take my life\_ and\_ let it be con - se - crat - ted, Lord, to\_ thee;

8 take my mo - ments and my days;\_ let them flow in

cease - less\_ praise;\_ let them flow in\_ cease - less praise.

**\* Prayer of Dedication**



## Going Forth to Live as God's People

**\* Closing Hymn No. 749**

## “Come! Live in the Light!”

## \* Commission and Blessing

## \* Choral Benediction

## Sanctuary

3 Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, — pure and

6 ho - ly, tried and true, — With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a

liv - ing — sanc-tu - ar - y for — you.

## \* Passing of the Peace

## Postlude

## J. S. Bach

## “We All Believe in One God”



# Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Be sure to visit our website, **[www.fhcbresb.org](http://www.fhcbresb.org)**, for a list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and past sermon texts and audio.

## Notes & Announcements

## Chancel Flower Donations:

- Joan Bacon in celebration of the lives of Jack, Bob and Noah.

**Prayers are requested this week for the following:** Laura Bell, Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Dan Fuller, Grace Glaros, Robyn Hales, David Hunter, Darla Character-Johnson, Wanda Nelson, Jim Seeders, Elizabeth Shaw, Jimmy Strong, Wesley Washington, and Ollie.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:** Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Carol Himmelsteib (mom of Kathryn Himmelsteib), Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Judy Sieck, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, and Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

**The Deacons encourage you to stop by the Greeting Card Table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship to sign a card for one or more of our homebound members. We will address and mail the card for you.**

**Care Group:** The Eden Care Group will for assist our pastors in meeting members’ needs during March. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

**Thank you** to Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales, head ushers, and today’s usher team.

*Coming Up*

**TODAY**

**Good News!** Forest Hill Church was recertified as an Earth Care Congregation!

**Adult Education** starts a new three-week series on salvation entitled “Why Did Jesus Have To Die?” led by Tom Zych. All are welcome! Classes start at 9:30 am in South Hall.

**Attention The Group** and anyone who loves chocolate. Join us for a delicious journey to Fantasy Candies (5338 Mayfield Rd, Lyndhurst) on April 6 from 5:00- 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to Jane and Chuck Ishler ([chasish@yahoo.com](mailto:chasish@yahoo.com)) by **March 31.**

**We welcome guest organist Fern Jennings** to the organ console today. She is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and was formerly the organist at the Shaker Hts. Unitarian Church. Anne Wilson is in Colorado where she attended her daughter Rachel's wedding yesterday.

**THIS WEEK**

**Bible and Bagels (Bible Study)** discusses next Sunday’s text(s) on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30. The lessons for this week are **Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4-14, John 12:1-8.**

**Heights Friends of Immigrants (formerly known as Hts. Friends of HOLA)** meets this Thursday (April 2) at 7 pm at St Dominic Church, 19000 Van Aken Blvd (corner of Norwood), and Shaker Hts. These meetings are great opportunities to keep up to date on current issues regarding immigration (nationally and locally) and to connect with others advocating for immigration justice. The agenda for this meeting will include a report on a court watch project, discussion about forming a Rapid Response Team and a report on Ansly Damus' (immigrant from Haiti) case. We hope you can make the meeting. Please contact Sharon Shumaker ([sms2924@gmail.com](mailto:sms2924@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

**The deadline for the bulletin or weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. **The next TOWER deadline** is 04/11/19 at 8:00 am. You may submit your written request to [office@fhcpresb.com](mailto:office@fhcpresb.com).

**Iris Circle and Women of FHC!** We will visit MACE (Muslim Association of Cleveland East) for a tour and prayer service on April 5 at 12:30 pm. We will car pool from FHC for those who are interested. We will leave FHC at NOON. MACE is located at: 26901 Chardon Rd., Richmond Hts. 44143. For questions, please contact Cathy Ghiandoni at 216 691-1905 or [ghiandoni.c@gmail.com](mailto:ghiandoni.c@gmail.com).

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

**There will be three services of communion in April (04/7, 04/18, and 04/21).** Anyone who is an active member of FHC may serve communion. Each time communion is served, eight volunteers are needed. This commitment does not require any extra meetings, just attendance at worship service. **If you are willing to add your name to the list of servers, please contact Mary Ball ([ml.ball47@gmail.com](mailto:ml.ball47@gmail.com) or 216-255-0842).**

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**You are invited to a BIG SING**, led by Scottish composer, author and pastor John Bell. We sing a lot of music by John Bell, and he leads very fun singing sessions that are meant for all people, regardless of music ability. Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in our sanctuary. You will enjoy his Scottish accent and his somewhat eccentric ways!

**Engaging the Spiritual Practices** on Sunday, April 14 at 9:30 am in the Chapel for a Lenten Study/practicum. Please notify the office ([office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org)) if you plan to attend.



**On Sunday, April 28, Adult Ed and Justice and Mission** will meet in South Hall at 9:30 am to discuss their Lenten experience. Come join us!

**Softball Spring Training is here!!!** The (aging) Forest Hill softball team is looking for the next generation of players to join the team. Starting the last week in April through the last weekend of July, the softball team plays other churches on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 across the street at Forest Hill Park. We are looking for a handful or more of new players to join the team. Members, visitors, friends, or family 16 and over should contact Jason Hidek at [jason.hidek@att.net](mailto:jason.hidek@att.net) or 440-264-3296 if interested.

**Attention Pacesetters!** Please join us on Saturday, Apr. 27 for a docent-led history tour of Lake View Cemetery aboard Lolly the Trolley. Meet at Forest Hill Church parking lot. Lolly the Trolley will transport us from church to the tour. The 2.5 hour tour begins at 9:30 am *SHARP* and the costs is \$25.00 per person. **Please RSVP to:**

**Sheryl Dugard @ [dugard.sheryl@gmail.com](mailto:dugard.sheryl@gmail.com) or  
Deborah Erwin @ [deberwinnash@aol.com](mailto:deberwinnash@aol.com)**

**Coming soon!** Small group sign-ups! If you are interested in joining a small group, watch for the bulletin board with a map of group locations and more details. Small groups will start after Easter, occur at various times during the week, and provide an opportunity to grow in faith with fellow FHC members and friends. Requested commitment: six meetings with your small group. Further details will be provided in the bulletin/email announcements in early April.

**Soul Tending series at Ghost Ranch this summer!** Many of you attended the 'Soul Tending' workshop last summer led by Rev. Anita Amstutz (cousin of Sharon Shumaker). The workshop was an introduction to her book 'Soul Tending: a guide to Sabbath keeping for your modern life'. Rev Amstutz will be offering a series of three week- long Soul Tending retreats at Ghost Ranch this summer **July 7-27, 2019**. More information is available on the Ghost Ranch website. Search 'Anita Amstutz' under 'Instructors'. **Please contact Sharon Shumaker ([sms2924@gmail.com](mailto:sms2924@gmail.com)) for more details!**

**The Ministry of Justice and Mission announces** the beginning of the community grant (application due June 1<sup>st</sup>) and endowment cycle (application due April 15<sup>th</sup>). We hope you will help us reach out to groups connected to FHC as well as community programs and organizations which seek to serve

those in need and to work for justice and self-empowerment. **Please contact Jennifer Blakeney (jablakeney.13@gmail.com) for details on each application or refer to future weekly emails.**

**Lenten Privilege Fast:** As part of the One Great Hour of Sharing, the Ministry of Justice and Mission and the pastors encourage you to consider a “Privilege Fast” for Lent. Look at aspects of your life that so many in our country and around the world must do without. We don't ask you to give these up, but put aside a coin or a dollar bill for each privilege you have as guided by the One Great Hour of Sharing brochure or try one of the ideas below. Consider:

- Students without adequate resources. Give a coin for every textbook you have.
- Persons experiencing unjust imprisonment. Give 10 coins if you've never been jailed without legal representation.
- Families living in tight quarters. Give 2 coins for every room in your house.

You might also contemplate your education and career opportunities: What skills and talents do you have that you might share with someone in the community? Ex.: mentor or tutor a student, help an entrepreneur develop a business plan, or offer your legal services pro bono. Please contact (jablakeney.13@gmail.com or ajah412@gmail.com) for more details.

*Youth News*

**Every Sunday:**

Classes for all youth (gr. 6-12) meet at 9:30 am in the Ruah Room.

***Looking ahead for the Youth (watch email for details):***

Sunday, March 31 from 5-7 pm: House Church with Fairmount Pres. and Church of the Covenant

Friday, April 12: Fish Fry - Intergenerational Outing (we plan to carpool in groups at 5 and 6:30 pm)

**“Lenten Privilege Fast with Justice and Mission Upcoming Dinners”**  
**Reservations are needed by April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

How many individuals attending dinner? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/we will attend \_\_\_\_ on April 3 \_\_\_\_ on April 12

***You may place this in the offering plate***

Calendar: March 31 –April 7

<p><b>Sunday, March 31:</b></p> <p>9:15 am   Childcare begins</p> <p>9:30 am   Adult Education</p> <p>              Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)</p> <p>              Youth Education</p> <p>                      (gr. 6-12)</p> <p>              Confirmation Class</p> <p>              Engaging the Spiritual</p> <p>                              Practices</p> <p>10:10 am Pathways (gr. 1-5)</p> <p>10:30 am Chancel Choir</p> <p>              Continental Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Children’s</p> <p>                              Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>12:30 pm Exploring Membership</p> <p>                              Class For new</p> <p>members</p> <p>4:00 pm   Reconnecting with</p> <p>              God’s Creation class</p> <p><b>Monday, April 1:</b></p> <p>6:00 pm   AA: Progress not Perfection</p> <p>7:00 pm   Al Anon: Now There’s Hope</p> <p>7:30 pm   AA: Borton Group</p> <p>              Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p><b>Tuesday, April 2:</b></p> <p>12:00 pm Abundance   Pantry</p> <p>              Registration and Lunch</p> <p>5:00 pm   Fitness Fusion Exercise</p> <p><b>Wednesday, April 3:</b></p> <p>7:30 am   Bible and Bagels</p> <p>12:30 pm   Staff Meeting</p> <p>              AA: Wednesday</p> <p>                      Women’s Group</p> <p>6:00 pm   Dinner and Lenten Program</p> <p>6:30 pm   Jung Workshop</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 4:</b></p> <p>1:30 pm   English Country Dance</p> <p>4:00 pm   ICE vigil</p> <p>5:00 pm   Fitness Fusion Exercise</p> <p>5:30 pm   Ladies in Training (Drill</p> <p>                              Team Practice)</p> <p>6:20 pm   Voices in Bronze</p> <p>7:30 pm   Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b>Friday, April 5:</b></p> <p>10:00 am   Al Anon: Hand in Hand</p> <p><b>Saturday, April 6:</b></p> <p>6:00 pm   Men’s Group</p> <p><b>Sunday, April 7:</b></p> <p>9:15 am   Childcare begins</p> <p>9:30 am   Adult Education</p> <p>              Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)</p> <p>              Youth Education</p> <p>                              (gr. 6-12)</p> <p>10:10 am Pathways (gr. 1-5)</p> <p>10:30 am Chancel Choir</p> <p>              Continental Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Children’s</p> <p>                              Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>                              Boy Scout Troop</p> <p>fundraiser</p> <p>                              Sine Nomine Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 pm   Reconnecting with</p> <p>              God’s Creation class</p>
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## Only a Cross

Dark desperate days; God's mysterious ways  
Black boundless nights with no visible light  
I cry out how long, ageless, aching song  
I stumble and grope for signs of Sunday's hope

-  
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of my seasons  
Until I look back to a Friday veiled in black  
The meaning is still in a tree upon a hill  
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross

-  
In oceans of grief I can lose my belief  
I'm sinking alone on my ship full of stones  
You calm the seas and remind me to believe  
Your mercy is near; you sail with me through my fear

-  
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of my seasons  
Until I look back to a Friday veiled in black  
The meaning is still in the tree upon the hill  
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only the cross

-  
You know me by name, all my wounds, all my shame  
My sin and my loss you still carry to that rugged cross  
The dawn will come, and you'll shimmer in the sun  
Night turns morn, as you die to be reborn

-  
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of our seasons  
But a rise veiled in black, our crosses on its back  
The answer is still in the graceful tree upon the hill  
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross

-  
Love is the light that brings day into night  
Love pays the cost of our sin and our loss  
The dawn will come, we'll be caught up in the sun  
Night turns to morn, as we die to be reborn

-  
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of our seasons  
But a rise veiled in black, all our crosses on its back  
The answer is still in the graceful tree upon the hill  
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross  
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross  
Nothing but the cross, simply our cross, only a cross