

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship
February 16, 2020 at 11:00 am*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.
Please sign in and join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.



Centering Words:

"Make my life a libation, poured out like oil, diffused through air like perfume, blessings multitudes."

--Based on 2 Timothy 4:6-8, by Safiyah Fosua

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Welcome

Prelude

Traditional Zulu song (South Africa)

“Amavolovolo”
Sine Nomine Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship:

Robyn Hales

God is here, The One who was present at the beginning, Who created all that is –including us-

Who called forth a people, freeing them from slavery, sustaining them in the wilderness, nurturing them through law and prophets, loving them in exile,

Who came into the world as one of us, demonstrating the power of love, renewing us through water, bread, and wine, dying to win a victory over death, rising to prepare a place for us,

Who is ever present throughout the generations to nurture us in faith, trust, and hope, to sustain us in all times and places, to free us for service and ministry.

God is here!

Let us worship the Author of our life.

* Processional Hymn

“Certainly Lord”

1. Have you got good re - lig - ion,
2. Do you love ev - 'ry-bod - y,
3. Have you been con - vert - ed,
4. Have you been to the wa - ter,
5. Have you been bap - tized,

Have you
Do you
Have you
Have you
Have you

Cert - 'n - ly Lord!

got good re - lig - ion,
love ev - 'ry-bod - y,
been con - vert - ed,
been to the wa - ter,
been bap - tized,

Have you got good re - lig - ion?
Do you love ev - 'ry-bod - y?
Have you been con - vert - ed?
Have you been to the wa - ter?
Have you been bap - tized?

Cert - 'n - ly Lord!

Cert - 'n - ly Lord! Cert - 'n - ly, cert - 'n - ly, cert - 'n - ly Lord!

Last time

Last time

**please stand as able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession:

Thou light of the world, shine in upon our darkness and illumine the truth that all may see it. For we are more ignorant than wicked--willfully ignorant it is true and wickedly willful-and yet it is because the world does not know and realize the truth about itself and about its human children that is continually doing such monstrous and hurtful things. Give us then light, more light, Oh God, that we may see and learn and know and we may no longer be with them who sit in darkness.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Merbecke

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The God made known in acts of grace,
Who ever on our hearts will trace
A covenant, once old, now new
Invites us all, both me and you
To gather as our forebears did.
Our Jewel of faith revealed, not hid.
A witness that can never cease. Let’s worship God in joy and peace.

Gloria Taizé

All sing first time. Second time: low voices, begin; high voices enter two measures later; children and youth enter two measures after that.

5 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Anthem Anne Wilson

“Praise Ye the Lord”

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

Today we celebrate the baptism of Gianna Jude Caminiti, daughter of Anne and Mason Caminiti and granddaughter of Elder Jeanette Nemcek. She’s also joined by grandparents, Michael and Alice Jo Soinski, and Tony and Judy Caminiti. Godparents are Clare Wiggins and Dan Bozek.

Baptismal Prayer

Ever-living God, in your mercy, you promised to be not only our God, but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving Gianna by baptism. Keep her always in your love. Guide her as she grows in stature and faith. Protect her in all the dangers and temptations of life. Bring her to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and to be Christ’s faithful disciple throughout her life; in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

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

***Hymn No. 837** “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

“Have You Got Good Religion”

Prayers of the People /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.

Ritual of Friendship/ Offering

Offertory

Dave Morgan

“Consolation”

Chris Coles, alto saxophone

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

* Prayer of Dedication

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

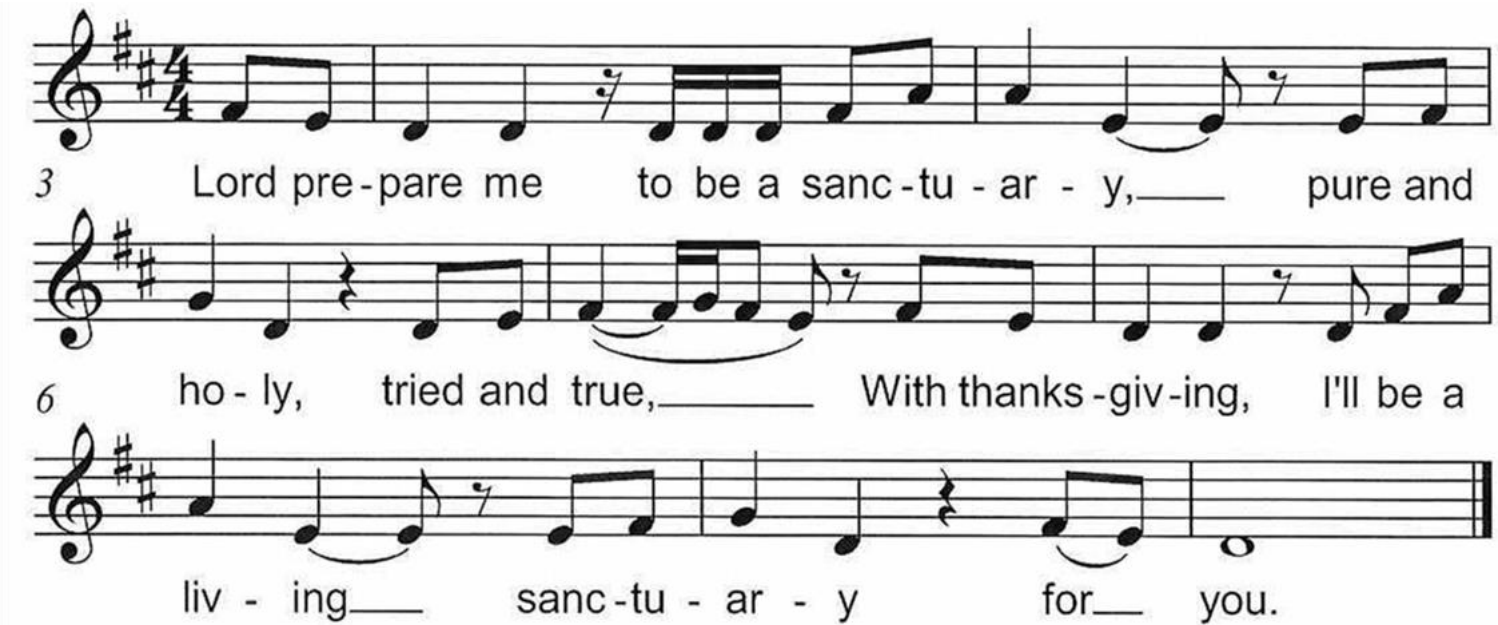
*Closing Hymn No. 656

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

*Commission and Blessing

*Choral Benediction No. 701

“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

Spiritual, arr. Chuck Marohnic

“This Little Light of Mine”

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

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.fhcpresb.org, for a list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and past sermon texts and audio.

Notes & Announcements

Chancel Flowers:

- Cameron Family in loving memory of Alan Scott Cameron.
- Two arrangements have been anonymously donated in honor of the “Beloved Community.”

Prayer Requests:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please use one of the slips of paper in the pew rack. Ushers will collect the requests during the middle hymn and pastors for inclusion in the congregational prayer.

Prayers are requested this week for the following: Doris Brandt, Breisch family, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, David Hunter, Joanna Klingenstein, and the Loughridge family, Derrick Matthews (custodian), Elspeth Peterjohn, Graham Peters and Dean Sieck.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, 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 assist our pastors in meeting members’ needs during **February**. 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 leader, Deanne Lentz**.

Thank you, Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales (**head ushers**), along with the rest of today’s usher team; **all office volunteers:** Ellen McChesney, Cathy Ghiandoni, Lynda Bernays and Anne Smith; **and the sound board team:** David Bell, Bader Boland and Steve Marunowski.

The deadline for the bulletin or weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **3/19/20 at 8:00 am**. You may submit your written request to office@fhcpresb.org.

To stay up to date on family programming, please subscribe to the Christian Education Newsletter: bit.ly/ceNewsletter.

Coming Up

TODAY

After service, please visit South Hall for blood pressure checks!

We welcome saxophonist, Chris Coles to our service today. Chris teaches at Kent State University and is a member of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra.

The Sine Nomine Choir will have a brief rehearsal after the service.

The Immigration Task Force is seeking volunteers to assist with welcoming our guests from Burkina Faso. Current volunteer needs include: daytime hospitality volunteers and meal drop-off. Future needs may include English tutoring and transportation. **Please email the Immigration Task Force at ITF@fhcpresb.org** if you are interested in becoming involved.

Take the Racial Equity Survey: The Racial Inclusion Committee and pastors encourage all members and worship visitors to fill out the Racial Equity Assessment. This will measure our collective experiences as a church. By completing the assessment, you will help the church set a baseline for where we are at present and where we can be in the future. The assessment is anonymous and seeks your honest and faithful appraisal. **To take the survey, go to <http://tinyurl.com/belovedsurvey2020>.** Paper copies can be requested from the church office. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

The Forest Hill Church Safety Core Team is reviewing our Safety Protocols. If you are a Forest Hill Church member with a background in the fields of medicine, emergency management, insurance, security, law enforcement or communications, we encourage you to become involved with this process. If you would like to volunteer your expertise toward developing action plans to prepare the Beloved Community to respond swiftly in case of emergencies, **please contact Sandy Moran at 216.990.1046.** Watch for future announcements of member presentations, open comment and training events in the weekly bulletin and TOWER publications.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels (Bible Study) discusses next Sunday’s texts on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. The lessons for this week are: **Exod. 24: 12-18; Ps. 2; Ps. 99; 2 Peter 1:16-32; and Matt. 17:1-9.**

NEXT WEEK

The Adult Education classes will continue their study of 1st Samuel (until Feb. 23). Join us at 9:30 am in South Hall and Bodwell Hall. Everyone is welcome!

The Adult Education class with Pastor Lentz, titled “Questions of Faith,” will continue in the chapel at 9:30 am.

Women of FHC! Read any good books lately? We love to share stories about a great read. Come and join us **Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Bodwell Hall.** We will have coffee and dessert while we talk about our books. Come join us for a delightful afternoon of good books. **Contact Cathy Ghiandoni (ghiandoni.c@gmail.com) for more information.**

Please join our knitting, sewing and crocheting group, "Fiber and Fellowship." Next meetings are: **February 25 at 10 am (in the Faith Leader Room) and March 10 at 10 am (in the Faith Leader Room).** Please contact **Carol (216-598-9730) or Chris (chris3040@aol.com)** for more details.

BE COUNTED FOR WHAT COUNTS - GCC Public Meeting, Thursday, February 27, 7 pm, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland. WE NEED YOU to be part of Forest Hill's commitment to bring 101 people to support GCC's action to secure one or more off-site, pre-booking Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Centers in Cuyahoga County, so police will have an alternative to jail for persons suffering such a crisis. Greater Cleveland Congregations has been pushing for the creation of these centers for the past two years because we know they work; they will save lives and public money – and they will reduce the overcrowding in our County jail that unduly burdens people of color. If you have not already let us know, sign-up and commit to attend on Feb. 27. Carpools will be organized. **We will have signups in Fellowship Hall on Sundays following worship or signup by email to [Diana Woodbridge \(diana@ninthrung.com\)](mailto:diana@ninthrung.com) or [Scott Lafferty \(swlaff@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:swlaff@sbcglobal.net).**

Dear Congregants,

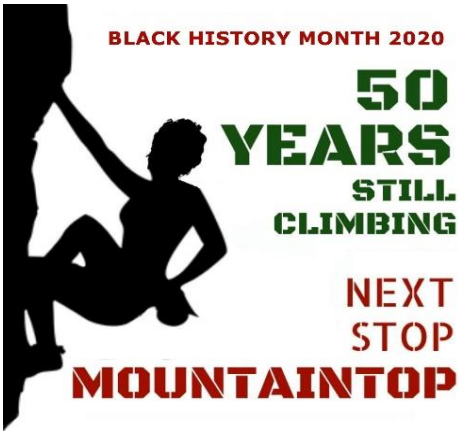
I would appreciate it if you would consider sending letters and cards to Jonas Nsongu Mouna, who has been detained since August 2018. Jonas is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was a political objector and was persecuted for fighting for more honest politicians. Jonas was in the Youngstown prison with Issoufou, Emmanuel, and Idrissa (the men who are now freed and living at Forest Hill Church), selflessly asking Maureen DeVito and Brian Hoffman from Catholic Charities to take on the men's cases, because no one was fighting for them. They did. Jonas was denied asylum by a judge, so now it's nearly impossible for him to get bond. At one point, Catholic Charities identified a place Jonas could live and got release approval by three different levels in the ICE organization, but when it reached the Detroit ICE office it was cold-heartedly denied. I met Jonas when I visited Issoufou, Idrissa, and Emmanuel in Youngstown prior to their bond hearing and ultimate release. He is a warm and caring man. He acted as an interpreter for me and the Catholic Charities lawyer, since a Mooré interpreter couldn't be reached on the phone. Jonas is fluent in French and Spanish and knows some English as well. His spirits would be greatly lifted if he received cards and letters of encouragement on a regular basis. This would help him know that he isn't alone and others care about him. Since he may be soon transferred to either Geauga or Detroit, cards and letters for now should be sent to:

Jonas Nsongu Mouna
c/o Maureen DeVito
Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services
7800 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Thanks so much!
Jeff Smith

The theme for Lent this year at Forest Hill is *Into the Wilderness*. Tom Zych will lead a program entitled *Re-Imagining The Eucharist: Discerning God's Call in Sacrament*. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament common to substantially all Christian churches, but the celebration of the Eucharist has divided the body of Christ instead of uniting us. We will study the biblical and traditional origins of Communion, dive into different ways Christians believe about the meaning of the meal and consider new and imaginative ways to encounter the body and blood of Jesus. Come prepared to open up to the mystery of Christ's sacrificial gift. **Classes will be on March 1, 8, and 15 at 9:30 am in South Hall.**

Black Caucus Book Club: On Saturday morning, **March 21**, in Bodwell Hall beginning at 10 am. We will discuss the book ***Strength to Love***, a compilation of sermons given by MLK, Jr. All people of good will are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Caucus has access to a few copies of the book "Strength to Love." **If you wish to borrow a copy please see or email Nicole Lawrence at nalawrence3@gmail.com.** You can also get copies from the ClevNet consortium or you can order the book via EBAY or Amazon.



Schedule for Black History Month at Forest Hill Church
February, 2020

*****Saturday, Feb. 22: Cooking Class with Chef Eric Wells, 4:00 PM-7:00 pm**

Chef Eric Wells, of Skye LaRae's Culinary Services, will offer a hands-on interactive program where we will cook a gourmet four-course meal! After preparation, we will all sit and eat communally. We have some funding that is allowing us to drop the price. **It is now only \$25.00!** And we want all who are interested to be able to attend, so if this lower fee is still a problem for you, please let us know, and we can provide you with a scholarship. You can sign up here: tinyurl.com/BHcooking2020.

Sunday, Feb. 23: 5:00-6:30 pm Soul Food Pot Luck, Theme: Soul Fusion

Our traditional Soul Food Pot Luck with emphasis on that cuisine blends elements from traditional Southern cooking with different regional American southern states or other very different cultures (such as Asian, or Mexican). In recent times, innovative African American Chefs have drawn from multiple traditions to create new delicious combinations. Sign up and tell us what you plan to bring here:

<https://tinyurl.com/BHpotluck2020>.

Sunday, Feb. 23: 6:30-8:00 pm- Ascension: An Evening of African-American Music

The seventh annual Black History Month Concert, organized by musical director Caleb A. Wright will be an evening of African American sacred music and jazz focusing on the last 50 years. Dear friend of our church and seminarian Shannon Garrett Headon will serve as host for the evening. Theron Brown, a national jazz recording artist & pianist, will direct a collective of creative local musicians, including Michael Hives, Reginald Bowens, Malika Turner, Adrianna Miller, Sierra Delaine, Toyia Wright-Reynolds. Local artist Eris Dyson will serve as our Poet Laureate. This is an evening of phenomenal music that you do not want to miss!

February 27, Greater Cleveland Congregations ACTION. See page 6 for GCC details.

Sunday, March 1: 12:30-1:30, Mountaintop Summit

A large group debriefing where we look back on our climb and assess where we have grown and where we have opportunities for more growth.

New Babies! How Exciting!

Carol Gifford would like to announce the new member of the Gifford Family, Miss Eleanor Lilly Gifford! Mom, dad and baby are doing well. Congratulations Gifford Family!

Scott and Sue Lafferty are overjoyed with the birth of their grandson, Jack Robert Wood Lafferty, son of Peter and Kate Lafferty. Congratulations Lafferty family!

Congratulations goes out to Carol Leslie! She has announced the birth of her grandson (son of Leslie and Rob Strachan).

Dr. William Proudfit, one week shy of his 106 birthday died peacefully at home, Tuesday, February 11. Dr. Bill was a man of stature, civility and grace. His spirit was always so joyful and respectful. He was a pillar of the church. A member of Calvary Presbyterian before he moved his membership to Forest Hill, he served the church as an Elder, and Trustee. He was married to his beloved wife Thelma and together they made a tremendously powerful and positive impact on all who knew them. Dr. Bill had expressed his desire to "go home and be with Thelma!" We rejoice in his home going! Thanks be to God for the life of William Proudfit.

Calendar: February 16-23

<p>Sunday, February 16: Caminiti Baptism 12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation Baptism Reception Sine Nomine Rehearsal Blood Pressure Check Voters Registration 5:30 pm AA: Promises on Sunday</p> <p>Monday, February 17: 6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection 7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There’s Hope OA Big Book Meeting 7:30 pm AA: Borton Group Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday February 18: 10:00 am Fiber and Fellowship 12:00 pm Abundance Pantry Registration and Distribution 1:00 am Iris Circle 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise Bulletin and Email Deadline 7:00 pm Racial Equity Buddies</p> <p>Wednesday, February 19: 7:30 am Bible and Bagels 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 12:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group 1:00 pm Hilltop Garden Club 7:00 pm Session Meeting TransFamily East Meeting Jung Education Workshop Guest Group: Speak Life Ministries</p>	<p>Thursday, February 20: 1:30 pm English Country Dance 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, February 21: 10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand 6:00 pm Netflix and Church</p> <p>Saturday, February 22: 8:00 pm Men’s Group 8:30 am CEIRS Class 9:00 am Tax Prep Kirtland Bird Club Fiber and Fellowship 11:30 am Food not Lawns: Sustainable Homes 12:00 pm Black History Team’s Cooking Class</p> <p>Sunday, February 23: 9:15 am Childcare begins 9:30 am Adult Education Youth Education Descant Choir 10:10 am Pathways 10:30 pm Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 am Worship and Children’s Worship 12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm Soul Food Potluck 6:30 pm An Evening of African American Music 7:00 pm AA: Promises on Sunday</p>
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3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

Office: 216-321-2660 Fax: 216-320-1214

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors
Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children’s Ministries
Tara Beverly, Youth Leader
Anne Wilson, Director of Music