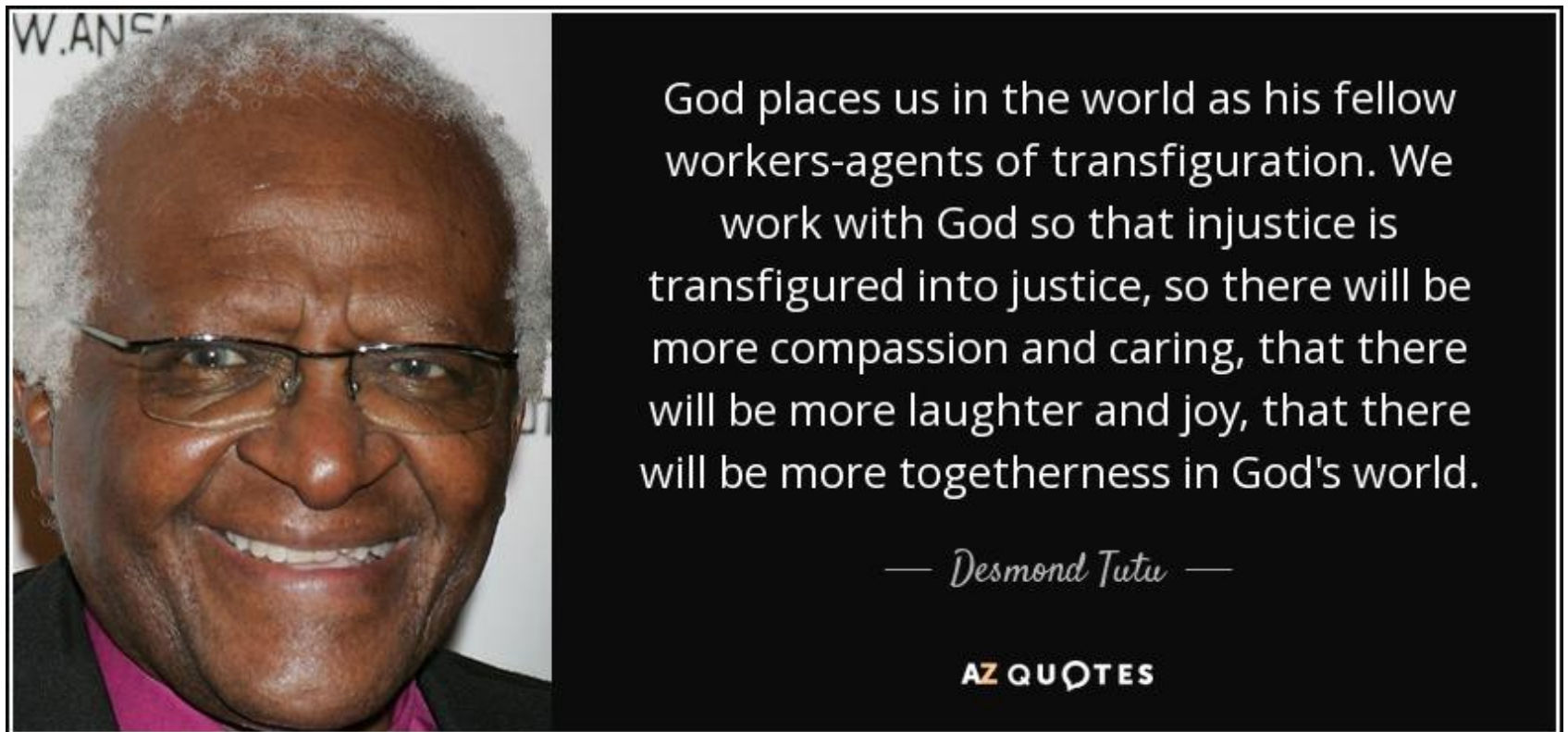


*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship
February 23, 2020 at 11:00 am*

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:



Welcome

Prelude

"Jesus, You Are King of My Heart"
Cherub Choir; Lisa Koops, director

Choral Introit

"Amazing Grace"

Traditional Gospel

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship:

Jessica Owusu

Come praise the Lord our God, and worship at God's mountain.

For the Lord our God is holy, full of compassion and grace.

When God's prophets cried out, God answered them,

Let all God's people sing praises to God's great and awesome name.

Mighty God, lover of justice, you establish equity throughout the world.

Let us worship God from the mountaintops. Let us praise God's holy name.

* Processional Hymn No. 317

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

**please stand as able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we have seen your light and glory in the work of your church, in the faces of loved ones, and in the life of Jesus Christ. Yet our memories are short, and we complain if we no longer feel your presence among us. Forgive us when we descend from life's mountaintops and turn our minds from the knowledge of how you have loved us. Pardon us when we neglect to seek you in the faces of lonely and suffering neighbors. Open our eyes and our ears, Lord. We need to change.

Time of Silent Confession

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Kyrie Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Merbecke

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The light of God’s grace shines upon us and through us. Knowing us completely, God accepts and loves us still. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

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.

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

Stevie Wonder

“Love’s In Need of Love Today”
Performed by Caleb Wright

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. 623

“I’ve Got Peace like a River”

Scripture Passages

Exodus 24:12-18 (page 62) and Matthew 17:1-9 (page 798)

Jessica Owusu

After the readings

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

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Forever Being Changed”

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

Sam Cooke

“A Change Is Gonna Come”
Performed by Jaali Boyd

***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. 408** "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

***Commission and Blessing**

***Choral Benediction No. 701** Led by Caleb and Jaali

"Sanctuary"

First Time: Caleb, Second Time: Jaali, Third Time: Congregation

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 Walter Hawkins

"Changed"



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:

Sally Wile in honor of her uncle, and the birthdays of Bill Der Garry and her sister Katy.

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
Please pick up your March TOWER after worship service.

Today we welcome, guest Pianist: Joshua Stone; saxophonist: Robin Blake; and guest vocalists: Caleb Wright, Arianna Shaw, Racquel Hubbard, Le’vaughn Leath and Arryanna Shaw.

Soul Food Pot Luck, tonight from 5:00-6:30 pm! 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). **Sign up and tell us what you plan to bring here:** <https://tinyurl.com/BHpotluck2020>.

Ascension: An Evening of African-American Music from 6:30-8:00 pm! 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. This is an evening of phenomenal music that you do not want to miss!

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.

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 **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: **Gen. 2: 15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12-19; and Matt. 4:1-11**.

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. 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) or Scott Lafferty (swlaff@sbcglobal.net).**

NEXT WEEK

On Sunday, March 1 from 12:30-1:30 pm, The Black History Education Team with host their *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.

Tom Zych will be leading 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, 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.**

Fiber Fellowship invites everyone to come be knotty! We have a quilt on the quilt frame in Fellowship hall that is the final stages of completion. Please come add a knot! Instructions are posted. 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.

Joshua Stone is a pianist, arranger, bassist and music minister at Imani Temple Ministries in Cleveland Heights, OH.

Jaali Boyd is a 20 year old vocalist and Student of Baldwin Wallace University. She has sung both locally and nationally for years, and is well known around Ohio for her unique voice and musical approach.

Le’vaughn Leath is a vocalist, songwriter and performer. He is the lead singer of The Robin Blake Sound Experiment.

Racquel Hubbard is a Cleveland vocalist from the illustrious Hubbard Family. She is a soloist, background vocalist and arranger. She is trained in jazz, gospel and choral music.

Arryanna Shaw is a vocalist, and songwriter originally from Cleveland, OH. She is a noted R&B, and jazz vocalist in the area. Her new single “Be Mine” can be streamed on all platforms.

Robin Blake, is a Cleveland based saxophonist and songwriter. He has been a staple in the Cleveland jazz and contemporary music scenes for over 5 years. He is the originator and leader The Robin Blake Sound Experiment.

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. -Black Caucus Book Club

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

March 22, 29, and April 5 Pastor Veronica will facilitate a grief-care fellowship titled “Into the Wilderness of Grief”. This three-week introductory, hands-on exploration will guide participants through grief, loss, and bereavement in a safe and supportive environment. Wilderness implies the inherent realities of grief. It suggests the fear and discomfort of the unknown, as well as real and perceived danger. Yet, it also implies the gifts and graces of an ever-present God, who miraculously led a grieving and disoriented people through the wilderness to a new orientation. This is our objective, to support the journey from disorientation to reorientation. **Register by Sunday, March 15; more information is available in Pastor Veronica’s *Tower* article.**

Learning Objectives: Participants will engage in varied forms of grief work, including:

- Learning the fundamentals and complexities of grief and loss
- Engaging in biblically-based spiritual practices to support healing and restoration
- Exploring artistic expression through our art-making sanctuary

Pat Seeders will serve as our registrar for this course. Sign up at her registration table on Sundays, February 23, March 1, 8 and 15. Youth and adults welcome!

~Pastor Veronica

"Into the Wilderness..." Lent 2020



Lent is a six-week-long season marked in the Christian calendar, beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 and ending on Easter Sunday, April 12. Lent is a time of introspection and prayer. Lent is shaped by the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. During this time Jesus became more aware of God's call on his life. We invite you into the wilderness of your own discovery..."

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb. 26 6:30 for supper and 7:30 worship.

Join us for our annual gathering for a simple supper in Fellowship Hall followed by a service of worship to begin the Lenten season. We will impose ashes, reminding us of our mortality and serve communion. This year we will add a "wailing wall" where we can place our prayers and concerns.

Wednesday, March 18 in Fellowship Hall 6:30

Supper, Bible Study and Hymn Sing

Revs Lentz will lead a bible study in Christ's wilderness journey and we will sing the hymns of Lent exploring their meaning. A children's and young person's activity is planned. Child care is provided.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9 6:30 p.m.

Last Supper Meal and Service

This year the church family is invited to share in the intimacy of the remembrance of the Last Supper at the table with Forest Hill members. The Eucharist will be served in Fellowship Hall and we will also give opportunity for foot and hand washing to recall Christ's last meal with his disciples.

Adult Education in Lent

Sunday mornings 9:30 to 10:30 South Hall

March 1, 8 and 15: Tom Zych will lead a course on "Re-imagining the Eucharist." As we journey into the wilderness God has given us food.

March 22, 29 and April 5: Rev. Goines will teach a course on "Into the Wilderness of Grief." She will explore the holy path of bearing witness through sadness and grief.

We encourage members to form dinner and house groups to build fellowship. If you would like recommendations about study guides or books, please contact Rev. Goines and Lentz.

Calendar: February 23-March 1

<p>Sunday, February 23: 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> <p>Monday, February 24: 6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection 7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There’s Hope OA Big Book Meeting Book Group 7:30 pm AA: Borton Group Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday February 25: 10:00 am Fiber and Fellowship 12:00 pm Abundance Pantry Registration and Distribution 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise Bulletin and Email Deadline</p> <p>Wednesday, February 26: 7:30 am Bible and Bagels 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 12:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service Guest Group: Speak Life Ministries 8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Thursday, February 27: 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 28: 10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand 6:00 pm Netflix and Church</p> <p>Saturday, February 29: 8:30 am CEIRS Class 9:00 am Tax Prep Fiber and Fellowship 11:30 am Food not Lawns: Sustainable Homes</p> <p>Sunday, March 1: 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 Sine Nomine Rehearsal 12:30 pm Mountaintop Summit 7:00 pm AA: Promises on Sunday</p>
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Forest Hill Exploring Membership class will be held on March 7 from 9 am-12 pm and March 8 from 9 am-10:30 am. Come to join, to explore, or to just learn more about us! **Please RSVP to Angela (church growth ministry) at churchgrowth@fhcpresb.org to attend.** Light breakfast will be served.

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Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257

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