

Forest Hill Church *Service of Worship*

October 4, 2020 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN3dPCVNv_c

Centering Words

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

~ Bishop Desmond Tutu

PRELUDE

Improvisation

Su Zar Zar from Myanmar, Burmese harp

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Mark Miller

Welcome

Laura Minder, Julie Minder, Clayton Minder, Melody Obery, Linn Obery

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we gather around God's table from near and far. **We are the People of God!**

Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition. **We are brothers and sisters in Christ!**

For there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. **We are One in God's Spirit!**

Come, let us worship the God of our Salvation!

HYMN NO. 853

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching

We are marching in the light of God.

(2) We are singing in the light of God.....

Renewing Our Relationship with God

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let's try to come back together again, and let's start with the truth. Let's confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even when our cups run dry, God’s grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God’s generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God’s love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God’s grace, and by the power of God’s love, your sins have been forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

Alleluia

Leader

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Leader

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Leader

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Leader

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ANTHEM

Tom Council

Come and Share Our Bread
Laura Minder, Julie Minder, Clayton Minder, Melody Obery, Linn Obery

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD

Matthew 21:33-46

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same

way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls. ’When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

After the readings

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Fruits of the Kingdom

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

To participate in our online Friendship Register, please leave a comment in the Live Chat box listing the names of those participating in this morning's Live Worship or email the office.

OFFERING

Virtual Giving and Offering options are available on our website

OFFERTORY

Arr. Irwin Shung

"Mo Li Hua" (Jasmine Flowers)

Traditional Chinese folk song offering gratitude for blossoms and blessings

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord’s Table /Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Let Us Break Bread Together
Blessing Mupeta from Zambia

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy;
Bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound.
Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: love abounds!

BENEDICTION

1. Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
2. Consecrate me to do Your chosen ministry.
Show me all you’d have me do.
Your light possessing, make me a blessing,
sharing works through new life in you.
(2nd verse by Rev. Ann Jefferson)

POSTLUDE

Chominciamento di gioia
"Chominciamento di gioia" means "beginning of joy."
This Italian dance from the time of the Black Death
lifted people's spirits in a time of trouble.
Niccolo Seglimann, vielle



FHC NOTES

Prayer Requests:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) or Pastor Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer. Please direct all prayer concerns that arise between Friday and Sunday morning to the Pastor's on-call phone line (216-319-3596). The on-call phone is operational after office hours on weekdays and Saturday through Sunday morning.

Prayers are requested this week for: Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, the family of Baldwin Sawyer, Jim Seeders, and Susan Way.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Doris Brandt, Marge Drollinger, Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams, and Warren Young.

Care Group: *The Mt. Sinai Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **October**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **Care Group leader, Tish Klein (deacons@fhcpresb.org)**.

Thank you, all office volunteers: Lynda Bernays, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Ellen McChesney.

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **October 15 (for the November TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

Bible and Bagels (Bible Study) discusses next Sunday's texts on Wednesday mornings (virtually) from 7:30-8:30 am. The lessons for this week are: **Exod. 32:1-14; Ps. 106: 1-6, 19-23; Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22: 1-14.**

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

Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries

Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate