

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship*

November 15, 2020 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/3r8vkkXG1yE>

Centering Words

God judges obedience by how well the needs of others are met.

PRELUDE

Arr.

Come Into His Presence

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Come, All You People

Laura Minder, Julie Minder, Clayton Minder

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. **You have made us and we are yours; we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.** Go through the gates with thanksgiving, and into the courts with praise. Give thanks and bless God's name. **You are good; your steadfast love endures forever, and your faithfulness to all generations.** Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 409

God is Here

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Even as we have done it unto one of the least of these, your children, we have done it unto you. **When they hunger and thirst, we are not quick to offer them the bread of life and the cup of salvation.** When they are outcast or imprisoned, we seldom go out of our way to visit them. **When they are sick or alone, we are not quick to keep vigil at their side. We know you are in our midst and await our response.** Forgive us when we do not go out of our way to be there for you. **Lord, hear us now in silence...**

SILENT CONFESSION

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With Christ now seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places, we can dwell with the assurance that in him we are forgiven. **Thank you, Jesus!**

OFFERING DEDICATION

O God, may your will be done as the least of your children experience the hope of the gospel. Use our gifts as channels of hope for those who hunger and thirst in this world. Take our time and fill it with a sense of your abiding Spirit that others may learn of your redeeming grace. Amen.

Alleluia

The musical score for Alleluia consists of four systems, each with a 'Leader' part and an 'All' part. The music is written in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ANTHEM

You Remain the Same

Laura Minder, Julie Minder, Clayton Minder

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Ezekiel 34:11-13, 15-20

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet?

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

1 O Christ the great foundation
on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation
in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken
as long as worlds endure.
2 Baptized in one confession,
one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression,
the sign of second birth:
one fellowship united
in love beyond our own
by grace we were invited,
by grace we make you known.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

The Beloved Community, a Praxis of Love

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.

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

Giving and Offering is available by texting: 216-400-5300
Or you may give online: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/give/online/>
You may also mail a check to the church office.

OFFERTORY

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
The Wright Family Singers

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 733

We All are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.

BENEDICTION

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
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

On Eagle's Wings

Arr.



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: Kiva Bohanon, Kathy Cameron, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Lillian Houser, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Kitty McWilliams, Susan Way, and the family of Dick Peterjohn.

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

Care Group: *The Calvary Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **November**. 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, Kathryn Himmelsteib** (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 **November 19 (for the December 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: **Ezek. 34: 11-16, 20-24 Ps. 100; Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25: 31-46.**