

Forest Hill Church *Service of Worship*

November 29, 2020 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/ZSvrAE1KQu4>

Centering Words

Arise and Shine, for your light has come.

-Isaiah 60

PRELUDE

Arr. by Burton Bumgarner

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Mark Miller

How Long?

Mark Murphy Laseter, tenor

Greeting Our God with Joy

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Dillenbeck Family

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so, we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,

We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

HYMN NO. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;

 behold the King of glory waits;

 the King of kings is drawing near;

 the Savior of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;

 make it a temple, set apart

from earthly use for heaven's employ,

adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide

my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

 Let me thy inner presence feel;

 thy grace and love in me reveal.

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, in word or deed, we have wandered from you. You have trusted us, but we have mistrusted you. We have acted as if you never called our names or blessed us. No wonder we feel alone before a host of enemies! Are you angry with us, God? Help us to take hold of your goodness and find new directions for our lives. Save us to our best selves in you. Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace and Peace come to us now, to equip us for the tasks to which we are called. Receive God's forgiveness with joy, and the assurance of strength to do what God expects. **Amen.**

ALLELUIA

Irwin Y. Shung

Piano

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

5

Pno.

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia A - men

-lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia A - men A - men

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mark Chupp and Elizabeth Shaw

Race Equity Survey

ANTHEM

G.F. Handel

Comfort Ye My People
Mark Murphy Laseter, tenor

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Mark 13:24-37

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the

Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 361

O Christ, the Great Foundation

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.
3 Where tyrants' hold is tightened,
where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened
and righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking
attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking,
with you the victory win.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

God's Unchanging Hand in a Changing World

HYMN NO. 404 (AAHH)

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

1 Time is filled with swift transition.
Naught of earth unmoved can stand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.
Refrain:
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.
2 Trust in Him who will not leave you.
Whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling. **[Refrain]**

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

Tamala Mann

Take Me to the King
Interpretive dance: Nicole R. Holiday

OFFERING DEDICATION

We rejoice, O God, in the gifts of your Spirit that offer us productive and fulfilling lives. As we exercise our generosity, touch us with new awareness of sisters and brothers you call us to love. May our gifts and prayers lift them and us into true partnership in your service. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 404 (AAHH)

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

4 When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in Glory
Your enraptured soul will view.

Refrain:

Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted
Mark Murphy Laseter, tenor



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, Cara Hall, Lillian Houser, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Kitty McWilliams, Susan Way, the family of Doris Brandt, and the family of Dick Peterjohn.

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.

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 **December 17 (for the January 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: **Isa. 40: 1-11; Ps. 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.**