

Forest Hill Church Service

January 17, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/VBQ-OELMuDI>

Centering Words

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE

Duke Ellington

Come Sunday

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Mark Miller

Let Justice Roll

Maverick Donahue, soloist

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Who is calling us? **Come and see.**

What might happen? **Come and see.**

Jesus calls to us, "Follow me." **We will follow the one who calls us.**

Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, and ten thousand beside!

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you call to us. But we are distracted by many things. We are afraid to answer. We might have to give up safety, our privilege, our power. We might have to change. Deep down we know your call leads us to our liberation and to justice and joy for all. Yet we hesitate. Such is the sin that clings so closely. Forgive us. By your spirit, help us to set aside our doubts and fears and distractions that we might more faithfully answer your saving call.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God searches us, knows us, loves us, won't give up on us, and forgives us. So, accept God's forgiveness and take the next step towards your own liberation. Receive the purifying grace that is ours through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

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

ANTHEM

If I Can Help Somebody
Maverick Donahue, soloist

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of

the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.” ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

After the readings

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

HYMN NO. 834

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord,
linger near; when my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Terms of Call

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

Schumann

The Poet Speaks

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

1. When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice!
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice!

Refrain:

We will rejoice with gladness, we will rejoice. All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice.

2. When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice!
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice!

Refrain:

We will rejoice with gladness, we will rejoice. All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice.

3. When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.
When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice.

Refrain:

We will rejoice with gladness, we will rejoice. All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing



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:

Melanie Alban, Barbara Bodzin, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Stavros Gazis, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Carolyn Smith, Kitty McWilliams, and Susan Way along with the family of Carol King-Himmelsteib (daughter Kathryn Himmelsteib) and the family of Beverly Chupp (son Mark Chupp, daughter-in-law Sharon Shumaker).

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

Care Group: *The Eden Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **January**. 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, Deanne Lentz (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 **February 18 (for the March 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: **Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62: 5-12; 1 Cor. 7: 29-31; Mark 1:14-20**.

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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