

# *Forest Hill Church Service*

*January 24, 2021 at 11:00 am*

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/t6V00PtOpnU>

## *Centering Words*

*To follow Jesus is both a command and a promise. The command involves forsaking one's past in an act of obedience. The promise implies that as one makes the decision, the future will be revealed.*

## PRELUDE

Arr.

*How Great Thou Art*

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHORAL INTROIT

Margaret Douroux

*If It Had Not Been for the Lord*

Jack Lentz, tenor

## *Greeting Our God with Joy*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 62

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord.

**God only is my rock and my salvation; I shall not be shaken.**

Trust in the Lord at all times. O people; pour out your heart before God.

**Our trust is in the Lord. We worship God's name.**

Let us worship God!

## HYMN NO. 401

*"Here In this Place"*

1. Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day  
Gather us in and hold us forever

Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of compassion and mercy, hear us as we make our confession. Christ preaches repentance; we do not heed his call. Your new day is proclaimed; we dwell on the past. We turn not from our evil ways, nor do we sacrifice those treasures that give us status. We say we obey you, but our deeds betray us. By your grace renew us, and make us whole again.

*Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.” God is merciful and just, and Jesus Christ promises redemption to all who believe. As we turn from our old ways and respond with faith to Christ’s call, we receive the assurance that we shall be saved.

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

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

5

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

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

**ANTHEM**

Marty Haugen

*Shepherd Me, O God*  
Jack Lentz, tenor

**HYMN NO. 298**

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission Precious*

1 Lord, you give the great commission:  
“Heal the sick and preach the word.”  
Lest the church neglect its mission,  
and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose  
with renewed integrity:  
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:  
“In my name baptize and teach.”  
That the world may trust your promise,

life abundant meant for each,  
give us all new fervor, draw us  
closer in community:  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.  
4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:  
"Father, what they do, forgive."  
Yet we hoard as private treasure  
all that you so freely give.  
May your care and mercy lead us  
to a just society:  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.

## *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

### **THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)**

#### **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

#### **I Corinthians. 7:29-31**

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

#### **Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

### *After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

### *Repentance*

**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**

Leonard Cohen

*Hallelujah*  
Jack Lentz, soloist

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Eternal Source of refuge and trust, we awaken with the dawn of new life. We labor with assurance that you bless the work of our hands. We sleep at peace in the promise of your protection and care. All that we are and all that we do are signs of your benevolent deliverance. Accept now the gifts we bring you as tokens of our gratitude and devotion. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*Going Forth to Live as God’s People*

**CLOSING HYMN NO. 346**

*For the Healing of the Nations*

1 For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.  
2 Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.  
3 All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

## 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.  
3. Lord, I'm ready to be a sanctuary,  
Filled with power from above—  
Please lead me this day to walk and talk in Your way,  
Bearing witness to Your great love.  
(3<sup>rd</sup> verse by Rev. Ann Jefferson)

## POSTLUDE

H. Purcell

*Voluntary*



*FHC NOTES*

### Prayer Requests:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz ([pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org)) or Pastor Goines ([pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org](mailto: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, Rev. Catherine (Kitty) Borchert, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Stavros Gazis, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Carolyn Smith, Kitty McWilliams, and Susan Way.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: **Deut.18:15-20, 10; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8: 1-13; Mark 1:21-28.**

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