

Forest Hill Church Service

Communion Sunday

July 4, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

https://youtu.be/2-L19P_87HQ

Centering Words

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus"*

PRELUDE

George Gershwin

"Summertime"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

"O God, Show Mercy to Us"
Meridith Vandall, soprano

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **maker of heaven and earth.**

This is the day that the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!**

Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN NO. 331

"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine has led us in the past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.

Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay: thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way. Lead us from night to never ending day.

Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. To the glory of your holy name, Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.



ANTHEM

“God Is My Shepherd”
Meridith Vandall, soprano

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Luke 3:4-6

As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

After the readings

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Aspirational Hope

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

“This Is My Song”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

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 769

“For Everyone Born”

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,
Chorus: And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace; yes,
God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

[Chorus]

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.

[Chorus]

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.

[Chorus]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

J. Rosamond Johnson
James Weldon Johnson

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

**Prayer Request:**

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:

Leslie Clement, Mark Davidson, the family of Marge Drollinger, Beth Garrett, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Steve Marunowski, Elspeth Peterjohn, Doreen Underwood, Eileen Vizcaino, Grace Uhle, Susan Way, Leslie Weissbrod and LeAnn West.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

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

Care Group: *The Nazareth Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **July**. 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, Sheryl Dugard** (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 **August 19 (for the September TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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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