

Forest Hill Church Worship Service

July 11, 2021 ~ 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/hEA4lhd7zFw>

Centering Words

Edwina Gateley

*Be silent. Be still.
Alone. Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing. Ask nothing.
Be silent. Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all. God knows.
God understands. God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love. Quiet. Still. Be.
Let your God—Love you.*

PRELUDE

Florence Price

“He's Listening”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Marty Haugen

“Gather Us In”

Christine Fuller, soprano

Jack Lentz, tenor

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Quentin Smith

We gather today in various homes and places.

We gather as part of God’s family.

We gather today with differing needs and opinions.

We gather as part of God’s family.

We gather today wanting community, seeking insight, desiring strength.

We gather as part of God’s family – all of us. Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 23 (sung to the tune of Austrian Hymn)

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

1. God, You spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We created in your image,
Would a true reflection be

Of Your justice, grace, and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.
2. You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people
We move onward toward Your goal.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and all-embracing God, we know how poorly we reflect your love. How easily we shrink from the inheritance of being your children; how readily we shirk the responsibility to love as we have been loved. We know that there isn't an excuse for how we hurt and exclude others, or for the ways we have damaged this planet and ourselves. Trusting in your never-ending love, we ask you to forgive us. Restore us into the people you want us to be. Shape us in your ways and help us live in a way that brings you praise. We ask in the name of Christ, who offers us an inheritance of love and joy.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Hear the good news! God's love and forgiveness are available to us all.

It is God who has created us, it is God who has redeemed us, and it is God who sends us forth to live as members of the family of God, through Christ. Amen.



ANTHEM (African-American Spiritual)

Arr. by Harry Burleigh

"My Lord, What a Mornin'"

Jack Lentz, tenor

PSALM 24

Paraphrased by Jim Taylor

HYMN NO. 435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
2. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Carol Wedell

“Family Matters”

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

F. Burgmüller

“Harmony of Angels”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN 716

“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

1. God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.
2. Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.
3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Heaven and Earth Display”



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, Nora Duncan, Dara Elliot, Beth Garrett, Rita Grube, Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Steve Marunowski, Elspeth Peterjohn, the family of Hailey Tookey, 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