

Forest Hill Church

Worship Service

January 30, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/RrX6exvMDbw>

Centering Words

Prepare yourself for worship by letting go of any distractions.

Take several slow, deep breaths

and remember that you are in the loving presence of God.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Handt Hanson

“There's a Song ”

Em Ezell, soprano

Jack Lentz, tenor

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also, with you.**

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.**

Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 408

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

1. There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;

without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

2. There are blessings you cannot receive till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you’re the one to profit when you say,
“I am going to walk with Jesus all the way.”

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;

without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF YEARNING:

Source of truth and love, we yearn for certainty in an uncertain world. Grant us the courage to proclaim the words you place in our mouths. Remind us that your love alone softens the heart and mind, allowing us to receive your mysterious ways. When we fear that others will not see things our way, remind us that we all see in a mirror dimly. Silence the clanging cymbals that distract us, and harken us to your voice once more, that we may abide in your love. AMEN

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who formed us in our mother’s wombs continues to shape our lives today. Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God’s love forgives our sin, heals our wounds, and gives us hope for the future.

ANTHEM

Chris Rice

“Come to Jesus”
Em Ezell, soprano
Jack Lentz, tenor

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSV)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

After the readings

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“The Greatest Gifts”

HYMN NO. 693

“Though I May Speak”

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love possesses,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

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/form/f861d6>
You may also mail a check to the church office.

OFFERTORY

Traditional Chinese Folksong
“Golden Embroidery”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 733 “We All Are One in Mission”

1. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ’s love.
2. We all are called for service to witness in God’s name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God’s surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God’s warm embrace.
3. Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God’s redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE G. F. Handel
“Allegro”

**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:

Scott Bell, Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Marlin Ramler (father of Deanne Lentz), Rob Reynolds, Grace Uhle, and Susan Way.

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.

Thank you, all office volunteers: Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **February 17 (for the March 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, Director of Music

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate