

Forest Hill Church

Worship Service

February 13, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/IIYMXRXQShg>

Centering Words

We can't give up, we have to continue... We are not here to hold a position or to be head of this, or that, or one or the other; we are here to mass our power and our thinking and our souls to see what we can do to make it better for the mass that can't speak out there.

~Mary McLeod Bethune

Heritage...must be continually be renewed rather than fixed in the past.

~Barbara Christian

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Anne Wilson

"Blessed Are They Who Hunger & Thirst For Justice"

Elégie

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Poor or despairing come to be blessed. **Hungry or tired, come to be restored.**

Sorrowing or sighing, come to discover joy. **Bring your tired, your poor.**

Share your hopes and dreams. **Embrace your doubts, your fears.**

Come as you are. All are welcome here.

HYMN NO. 339

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;

we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,

where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way.

Thou who has by Thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,

where we met Thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee.

Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, True to our native land.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy God, we confess that we have failed to stand with those oppressed and marginalized by systematic injustice.
We have valued property and profits over the lives of people.
Courts and public safety agencies enforce unequal justice.
Struggling workers are displaced
And pushed into homelessness.
Public functions for the common good are privatized and deregulated.
The cries of those who grieve are muffled.
Victims are asked to forgive and reconcile even before their wounds can begin to heal. In its silence, inaction, and actions the church is complicit in this unrighteousness.
In your mercy, Holy God, help us to confess and repent of these sins.
Lead us to cry out with the prophets
Until justice rolls down like waters
And righteousness like a mighty stream.
Empower us to become repairers of the breach,
Able to join with the most vulnerable among us
In making our communities livable again.
In Jesus’ holy name we pray.

(Book of Common Worship p. 604. Recommended by FHC's Racial Inequity Repair Committee)

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Blessed are you who place your trust in God. For the Holy One is faithful and true. Christ’s love is sufficient for your every need. Be at peace.

ANTHEM

William Dawson

“Soon - Ah - Will Be Done”
Elégie

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

‘Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ‘Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. ‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.
“Blessed”

HYMN NO. 699 *“Fill My Cup”*
(Refrain)
Fill my cup; let it overflow; fill my cup; let it overflow; fill my cup;
let it overflow; let it overflow with love.
Lord, let me be your instrument, spreading sunshine in the land;
let people see your works in me; help me live the best I can. **(Refrain)**
It’s my desire to live for you and to always walk upright;
give me the strength to face each day;
stay with me through each dark night. **(Refrain)**

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 Dr. C Ronald S. Williams II
“My Dwelling Place”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People
CLOSING HYMN NO. 384 *“Soon and Very Soon”*
1. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. (3X)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.
2. No more crying there; we are going to see the King. (3X)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.
3. No more dying there; we are going to see the King. (3X)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.
4. Soon and very soon; we are going to see the King. (3X)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

African Spiritual

“Kum Ba Yah”



This Sunday’s special performance by Elégie is sponsored by the following members: Deanne Lentz Cynthia Lehman, Quentin Smith, and Virginia Weiss. Thank you for supporting this special music for our church.

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:

Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Brian Klein, Joanna Klingenstein, the family of 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