

Forest Hill Church *Worship Service*

February 20, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/aI0fTC1vUDk>

Centering Words

“ . . . and a little child shall lead them.”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

George D. Elderkin

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

Mist'a Craig

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN NO. 412

“We've Come This Far By Faith”

We've come this far by faith,

Leaning on the Lord.

Trusting in his holy word.

He's never failed us yet.

Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,

We've come this far by faith.

1. Don't be discouraged with troubles in your life.

He'll bear your burdens

And move all misery and strife

That's why, we've come this far by faith,

Leaning on the Lord.

Trusting in his holy word.

He's never failed us yet.

Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,

We've come this far by faith.

Just the other day I heard someone say,

He didn't believe in God's word.

But I can truly say the Lord will make a way.

and He's never failed me yet.

That's why, we've come this far by faith,

Leaning on the Lord.

Trusting in his holy word.

He's never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,
We've come this far by faith.
Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,
We've come this far by faith!
We've come this far by faith!
We've come this far by faith!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Where ignorance, selfishness and greed have fractured life in the community,

Give your light, O God of love.

Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples,

Give your light, O God who frees.

Where hunger and poverty, illness and death have made life an unbearable burden,

Give your light, O God of grace.

Where suspicion and hatred, conflict and war have challenged your goodness,

Give your light, O God of peace.

Eternal God, open our eyes, and the eyes of nations and peoples so that they may walk in the light of love; remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples so that they may drink from the fountains of your goodness.

Restore us to wholeness Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

It is God who disturbs our complacency, pricks our false certainties, and turns our complaints to constructive action. Even now, God is at work in our lives, turning us from self-destruction, prompting our desire for deeper knowledge, and leading us to more satisfying involvements.

In Christ we have been reconciled to this God who loves us and is ever ready to help us endure, grow in character, and live by hope. Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

ANTHEM

Sam Cooke

“A Change is Gonna Come”
Mist'a Craig

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Luke 6:20-26

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 in 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.

HYMN 188

“Jesus Loves Me!”

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Refrain:
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.
2 Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." **[Refrain]**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

“A Vision of the Beloved Community: ...and a little child shall lead them.”

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

Yolanda Adams

“Open Up My Heart”
Mist'a Craig

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 404

“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

1 Time is filled with swift transition.
Naught of earth unmoved can stand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

Refrain:

Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

2 Trust in Him who will not leave you.
Whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling. [Refrain]

3 Covet not this world’s vain riches
That so rapidly decay.
Seek to gain the heav’nly treasures.
They will never pass away. [Refrain]
4 When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in Glory
Your enraptured soul will view. [Refrain]

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gabriel Campra

“Send the Light”



**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, Marty, Laura, Ryan Cosgrove, Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Paul Tuggey (father of Christina Hidek), 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