

Forest Hill Church
Worship Service
Second Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/Pmtzw1RS2k0>

Centering Words

The Holy One is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

PRELUDE

Marianne Martinez (1744-1812)

“Andante”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Taizé

“O Lord Hear My Prayer”
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Holy One calls us to trust and pray. **God is our light and salvation, the stronghold of our lives.** The Holy One calls us to take courage, as we travel the path with Jesus. **Teach us your ways, O God, and lead us on our journeys.** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Behold the beauty of the Holy One, and bless God’s holy name.**

HYMN NO. 409

“God Is Here!”

- 1.** God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 3.** Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 4.** Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and
doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Loving Guide and Protector of your children, when Jesus began his walk towards Jerusalem, he knew the journey could cost his life. **When we cannot see the road ahead, we are tempted to turn back instead of trusting the path you lay before our feet.** When Herod threatened to kill Jesus, he remained with the people, casting out demons and healing the afflicted. **When trouble comes, we are tempted to run away and protect ourselves, rather than remain with those who need our help.** Facing the cross, Jesus longed to gather the people as a hen gathers her brood beneath her wings. **Forgive us when we are not willing to take shelter in your loving arms.**

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: The Holy One forgives and guides us, conforming us into the very image of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Glory to God. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Mary Ann Breisch

“Only a Cross”
Dark desperate days; God’s mysterious ways
Black boundless nights with no visible light
I cry out how long, ageless, aching song
I stumble and grope for signs of Sunday’s hope
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of my seasons
Until I look back to a Friday veiled in black
The meaning is still in a tree upon a hill
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross
In oceans of grief I can lose my belief
I’m sinking alone on my ship full of stones
You calm the seas and remind me to believe
Your mercy is near; you sail with me through my fear
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of my seasons
Until I look back to a Friday veiled in black
The meaning is still in the tree upon the hill
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only the cross
You know me by name, all my wounds, all my shame
My sin and my loss you still carry to that rugged cross
The dawn will come, and you’ll shimmer in the sun
Night turns morn, as you die to be reborn
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of our seasons
But a rise veiled in black, our crosses on its back
The answer is still in the graceful tree upon the hill
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross
Love is the light that brings day into night
Love pays the cost of our sin and our loss
The dawn will come, we’ll be caught up in the sun
Night turns to morn, as we die to be reborn
No rhyme or reason to the sorrows of our seasons
But a rise veiled in black, all our crosses on its back

The answer is still in the graceful tree upon the hill
Nothing but the cross, simply the cross, only a cross (3X)

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Gen. 15:1-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 175

"Seek Ye First"

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
3. You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Terms of Call"

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

Louise Farrenc (1804-1875)

“Etude”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 837

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain) Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain)
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

“Romanze”

In honor of Women's History Month, we celebrate music and works by female artistes and composers in today's service.

**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:

Connie and Steve Biddinger (family of Nick Baumgartner), Barb Cloud, the family of Laura Cosgrove (Mike Cosgrove's sister-in-law), Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Dave Neff, the family of Jack Prentice, 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.

Care Group: *The Corinth Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **March**. 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, Dean Sieck** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

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 **March 24 (for the April TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Office: 216-321-2660 Fax: 216-320-1214

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

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