

Forest Hill Church
Worship Service
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/Zvae57jtqUM>

Centering Words

The lost are found. The dead return to life.
This is the Lord's doing; it is wonderful in our sight.

PRELUDE

Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre

"Allemande in A minor"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Pablo Sosa

Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia, for in your life and in mine is shining the glory of God Alleluia!
Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia, for in your heart and in mine abides the one love of our God.
Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia, for your life and mine unite in the love of our God Alleluia!

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like a loving Mother, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

Like a loving Father, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new.

Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 515

"I Come With Joy"

1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

4. The Spirit of the Risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

5. Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

In your love, O God, we are never lost. In your care, O Christ, we are ever found. Help us feel this truth in our very bones, for we are often far from home, unsure of how to return. Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope. Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you. For we long to taste the glory of your heavenly banquet, and we yearn to be held in your arms as beloved children. Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hold fast to these words of assurance: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away!” In Christ, we are reconciled indeed, for we have found our true home.

ANTHEM

Trad. Arranged by André J. Thomas

Follow the drinking gourd,
For the old man is awaitin' for to carry you to freedom,
if you follow the drinking gourd.
Follow, follow, follow.
Follow the drinking gourd.
When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,
Follow the drinking gourd.
The river bank will make a very good road.
The dead trees will show you the way.
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on,
Follow the drinking gourd.
The river ends between two hills,
Follow the drinking gourd.
There's another river on the other side,
Follow the drinking gourd.
Where the great river meets the little river,
Follow the drinking gourd.
The great river meets the little river,
Follow the drinking gourd.
Follow the drinking gourd,
For the old man is awaitin' for to carry you to freedom,
if you follow the drinking gourd.
Follow, follow the drinking gourd!

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we have the honor of baptizing **Rico Benjamin Jackson-Garrett**, son of David and Elizabeth Garrett.

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Gracious God, giver of all life, we thank you for receiving Rico by baptism. Keep him always in your love. Guide him as he grows in faith. Protect him in all the dangers and temptations of life. Bring him to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to be Christ’s faithful disciple through all his life.

HYMN NO. 473 (Psalm 23)

“Shepherd Me, O God”

Refrain:

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.
God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **[Refrain]**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. **[Refrain]**
Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff,
my comfort and my hope. **[Refrain]**

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today, I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.”

2 Corinthians 5:16, 19

“From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.”

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So, he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So, he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

“Forgiveness: The Heart of the Gospel”

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

Gabriel Faure

“Poco Lento”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 313

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

- 1. Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, makes us more holy, until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.
- 2. Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving, until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving, until we meet again.
- 3. Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient, until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient, until we meet again.
- 4. Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful, until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ira B Wilson

“Andante Gracioso”

**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, Joanna Klingenstein, Deanne Lentz, Dave Neff, Paul Tuggey (father of Christina Hidek), Grace Uhle, Susan Way, and Karl Wheatley.

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 **April 14 (for the May 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