

*Forest Hill Church:
Communion Service*

April 3, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/wGa5RfwliQ4>

Centering Words

*You are welcome here. No matter where you have been,
no matter what you have done, you are welcomed in love and grace.
Here, God offers rest and renewal, healing and restoration, hope and peace.*

PRELUDE

J.S. Bach

“Prelude in A minor”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

African-American Spiritual

“Guide My Feet”

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven and, in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the God of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go, as you trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice. O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN NO. 475

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

O God, we will not try to hide from you the wrong we have done or the good we have neglected. You know our transgressions. You have observed our pretensions. We have

claimed too lightly the label “Christian,” for often we cut ourselves off from you and from people we disdain. At times our rebellion leaves us hungry, alone, and friendless. O God, we are not worthy to be called your children. Grant us your forgiveness and pardon, we pray, and grant us a renewed vision of who you are and who you intend us to be and to become. Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

We are assured that God forgives the guilt of our sin. Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity and, in whose spirit, there is no deceit. Rejoice for God has brought us back home.

ANTHEM

“Roll Down, Justice!”

There’s a voice, strong and clear, ringing out far and near,

“Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!”

Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream,

Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Let the earth be restored, ev’ry soul be reformed;

Let the healing renew, creation reborn.

Here in this sacred space with the strength of God’s grace

Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Roll down, justice! Roll like an ever flowing stream, roll down!

Let your heart soar, open the doors wide,

let your mind be transformed, let it be opened by love.

On this glorious day give us courage, we pray, that justice rolls down.

Let vision take flight and God will delight as the waters flow down, justice abounds!

Roll down, justice! Roll like an ever flowing stream, roll down!

(Congregation please join in)

Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace

Streams of justice, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongue above.

Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!

Roll down, justice! Roll like an ever flowing stream, roll down!

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

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.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

“Peek-a-Boo and The Prodigal Family”

HYMN 418

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

“Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **[Refrain]**

3. O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **[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/give/online/>
You may also mail a check to the church office.

OFFERTORY

“Largo”

Gabriel Faure

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Largo”

Kabalevsky

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless God’s holy name. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Send us forth in the power of your Spirit into this new year that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN NO. 547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.
2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in A minor”

J.S. Bach



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, Dave Neff, 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 Jerusalem Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **April**. 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, Gail Larson** (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