

*Forest Hill Church:
Communion Service*

July 3, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/JkLLzHAqU5Q>

Centering Words

“What happens when people open their hearts?”

“They get better.”

Haruki Murakami, Norwegian Wood

PRELUDE

Lefebvre-Wely

"Elevation"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Kenyan Song

Hymn No. 456 "Listen, God is Calling"

FHC Summer Choir

[Refrain]

Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,

Offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news that he came to save us and set us free. **[Refrain]**

Let none be forgotten throughout the world. In the triune name of God go and baptize. **[Refrain]**

Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast, walking in your precepts, led by your Word. **[Refrain]**

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy One, all the world is yours.

All people, all places are held closely in your heart.

You call us your beloved children; your embrace awaits us.

The wholeness and healing you offer us, are for all people.

Open our hearts, our eyes, and our ears as we come together this day.

Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN NO. 340

“This is My Song”

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth Thy will be done.

Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of all, how often we lose sight of who we are as your beloved children. We get caught up in what we do, who we know, what we have, even where we live, and falsely believe those things say something about our worth. Our pride gets in the way. Sometimes we don't even see how we let our privilege and power run the show. We search for assurance among those who say what we want to hear, rather than listening to the voices that make us uncomfortable. Forgive us, O God. Help us give up our own stake in the matter and call us into the hard work of justice. Empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to listen, to speak and to be your faithful servant people. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, there is no place you can go, no place you can hide or be forgotten, where your heart will not know the song of God. God knows your voice and calls you by name. You are forgiven, loved, and restored. Come, sing the song of your heart, and follow the voice of God, who leads us onward. Amen.

HALLELUJAH, AMEN



Hal-le - lu-jah, hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le -
lu-jah, a - men! In all I say and I do: Hal-le -
lu - jah, a - men!

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Woody Guthrie

"This Land is Your Land"
Em Ezell, soloist

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Carol Wedell

"Unselective Hearing"

HYMN 770

"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"

1. I'm gonna eat at the welcome table; I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table; I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.
3. I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers; I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Alleluia.
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers; I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Alleluia.
4. Here all the world will find a welcome; here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia.
Here all the world will find a welcome; here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia.

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

“Adagio”

Edward Elgar

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“In Remembrance of Me”

Ragan Courtney

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, may the power of this sacrament take hold of our lives and inspire us to live boldly, that all things now and in time to come may show forth your love to the world. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN NO. 749

“Come! Live in the Light!”

1. Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice; we are called love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“America the Beautiful”
Ahren Stock, trumpet

Samuel Augusta Ward



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.

Prayers are requested this week for:

Kiva Bohanon, Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Dave Neff, Rob Reynolds, Lee Wieder Rosenberg, Grace Uhle, and Susan Way.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

Care Group: *The Bethlehem Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **July**. 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, Kitty McWilliams** (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 **August 11 (for the September 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

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**