

*Forest Hill Church:
In Person Worship Service*

July 17, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/ZmVSAHpr3ro>



Centering Words

“Even when we forget that God watches over us, God loves and redeems us.”

PRELUDE

J.S. Bach

“Gavotte”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Alexander M. Peters

“Ho, All Who Thirst”

[Refrain]

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink!

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!

All who come may take this gift of living water.

They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled. **[Refrain]**

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come from the busyness and the business of the day. **We come to let go of the ways of the world.** Come and turn aside the temptation to do the things that are only done in the shadows. **We come to embrace what God offers us, God’s presence and unconditional love.** Come, however hesitantly, to find refuge and the way to live in Christ’s great love.

Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN NO. 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

[Refrain]

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

The world seems to be going to hell in a handbasket. Much as we don’t intend to, we seem to jump into that basket instead of into your loving arms. We seek self-defense and self-protection instead of neighbor love and generous giving. We have lost our way, but we are here, together, now. We want to be a people who walk in your way, your truth, and your life. Forgive us and put us on the right path of your mercy and justice.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is nothing that we can do that will make God love us any less. God is always there on the way – guiding us, calling us to live in God’s unconditional, steadfast love. Open yourselves to that love, knowing that with God, all things are possible. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greet one another as sisters and brothers walking the way of God.

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

Hal Hopson

“Though I May Speak”

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love; my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Colossians 1:15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before

him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so, she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Stuck in the Mud"

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

Arr. Philip Keveren

"Blessings"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

1. God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.
2. Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.
3. Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet;
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.
4. Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.
5. Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fantasie Sue La Flûte enchantée de Mozart”

Arr. Lefébure-Wély



Prayer Request:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@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, 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.

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Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

Celebration of Life for Doris Brandt

Cindy Newton and her family will be having a celebration of life for her mother, Doris Brandt, a long-time FHC member who passed away on November 18, 2020. Cindy extends an invitation to the FHC family to join her family in remembering Doris on Saturday, **July 30, 2022, at 11:30 AM** in the sanctuary.

A light lunch will be served afterward, and the family asks those who can stay to RSVP at cnewton2251@gmail.com.



To view the obituary for Doris E. Brandt, click this link:
<https://www.dejohnfuneral.com/doris-e-brandt/>

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