

*Forest Hill Church:
Worship Service
Communion Sunday*

January 1, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/vmUDrEfK8Bo>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

For all that has been – Thanks!

For all that is to come – Yes!

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

I will proclaim the gracious deeds of God; **the steadfast love of the Lord is great.**

Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord, **the glory of God's people and a light to all.**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; **let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

***OPENING HYMN NO. 143**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

(Stanzas 1,2 and 4)

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of mercy and love, we confess that often we have failed to receive and give love; to care for others as we care for ourselves; to forgive and accept forgiveness. We remember good intentions that were not put into actions; harsh words that were hurtful; selfish purposes that caused pain; persistent pride that would not yield. We acknowledge our fear in the face of death and our failure to accept the hope you offer us in Christ. Hear us, O Lord, as in this silence, we make our confession to you.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

Praise God, all the angels; praise God, all the host!

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for the Lord commanded and they were created.

God established them forever and ever; the Lord fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted; **the Lord's glory is above earth and heaven.**

The Lord has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all God's faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to God. **Praise the Lord!**

John 1:14-18

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR TESTIMONY

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

*(As you are led, you may stand and share with the congregation
how you experienced God in the last year, and your hope for the year ahead.)*

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

“Ballade in F Major”

F. Chopin

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

J.S Bach

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. Now send us forth in the power of the Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 136**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Bóg się rodzi (God is Born)”

Polish Carol



Welcome our musical guest: Jiana Peng

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:

Cooper Andrews, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Kitty McWilliams, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Susan Way and Sharon Wiggins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

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

Care Group: *The Corinth Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **January**. 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.

Thank you, all Stream Team Volunteers!

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **January 12 (for the February TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.



Born in Sichuan, China, **Jiana Peng** has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and China. She is the winner of the 2020 International Chopin Piano Competition (Corpus Christi) and a laureate of the 2022 Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition (Washington, D.C). Her debut album "Chopin Preludes and Other Works" was released globally in Spring 2022. She is also the winner of the Finalist Award in the New York International Piano Competition, Nice Côté d'Azur International Piano Competition, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra Music Scholarship Competition, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Concerto Competition. In 2021, Jiana was among the 87 pianists selected from over 500 applicants worldwide to participate in the 2020 International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland.

Jiana earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music studying with Antonio Pompa-Baldi and HaeSun Paik, as well as her Artist Diploma from the Oberlin Conservatory under the guidance of Stanislav Ioudenitch. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music under the tutelage of Kevin Kenner with a graduate teaching assistantship.

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Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate