

Forest Hill Church: Worship Service

January 8, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6N-zcjuEyg>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*We approach God and one another
not as strangers but as beloved children; sisters, brothers and siblings*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

African-American spiritual

Laura Minder, Julie Minder, and Clayton Minder

"Wonderful Counselor"

Oh, who do you call the wonderful counselor?

Oh, glory hallelujah! Oh, glory hallelujah!

Glory hallelujah to the newborn King!

Oh, I call Jesus the wonderful counselor.

Oh, glory hallelujah! Oh, glory hallelujah!

Glory hallelujah to the newborn King!

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters, **and in the temple God's people say: Glory!**

The heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and a voice sounded: **This is my Beloved Son!**

Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken: **I have called you by name; you are mine.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 151**

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

The congregation will sing the chorus only

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

Children will leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

ANTHEM

by Cecilia MacDowell

Laura Minder, Julie Minder, and Clayton Minder

“A Prayer of St Columba”

Be thou a bright flame before us,

Be thou a guiding star above us,

Be thou a smooth path below us,

And be a kindly shepherd behind us,

Today, tonight, and forever.

Drive from us all temptation and danger
Surround us on the sea of unrighteousness,

And in the narrows, crooks, and straits

Keep thou our coracle, keep it always,

Today, tonight, and forever

Be thou a bright flame before us,

Be thou a guiding star above us,

Be thou a smooth path below us,

And be a kindly shepherd behind us,

Today, tonight, and forever.

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN NO. 451**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Expectation & Fulfillment”

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 from Toccata Undercima”

Georg Muffat

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 741**

“Guide My Feet”

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN NO. 701**

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.

Sanctuary

POSTLUDE

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J.S Bach



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, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Kitty McWilliams, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, 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. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate