

*Forest Hill Church:  
Worship Service*

*February 12, 2023 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl-xLUSTfI4>

*\*Please stand if able*

*Centering Words*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.  
James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)*

**PRELUDE**

Little Crescendos  
Julie Minder, director

Sing When the Spirit Says Sing  
Peace Like A River  
Praise Ye the Lord Hallelujah  
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! **Praise ye the Lord! x2**  
Praise ye the Lord! **Hallelujah! x3 Praise ye the Lord!**  
**Praise! What's that? It's a yippie, yahoo, way to go God! X 2**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kate Burleigh

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Traditional

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"  
Chancel Choir

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (From Ephesians 2:14)**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. **For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility.**

Come, let us worship the living God who has done great things for us. **We will lift our voice in prayer and praise.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 273**

"He Is King of Kings"

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Kurt Haas

Only in the light of your presence, O God, and thanks to the promises of life abundant given by Jesus, are we willing to look at what we have done. **Forgive us and unite us in a way that leads to justice and peace. God of love hear our prayer.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creative and loving God, you have searched us out and known us and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned: we have put up walls between ourselves and you, closing our hearts to your gifts. We have sinned against each other: we have put up walls between ourselves and our neighbors, giving in to fear, ignorance and arrogance. We are stained by the sin of racism and fail to respect the gifts of all your peoples. Forgive us for what we have done to hurt others. Give us your blessing and help. Let us walk in your great love; through the great peacemaker, your Son, Jesus Christ.

## TIME OF SILENCE

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

I tell you good news; God has not given up on us. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thank you, God, for your forgiveness. May we turn away from sin and turn towards reconciliation and justice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, amen! In all I say and I do: Hallelujah, amen!*

## CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

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

## ANTHEM

Margaret Pleasant Douroux

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

*Chancel Choir, Jack Lentz, tenor*

*Cheryl Murray, soprano*

[Refrain] Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee.

Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by Thee.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow Thee

[Verse] I'm not asking for the riches of the land.

I'm not asking for the proud to know my name.

Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may follow Thee.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow Thee.

[Verse] Sometimes I am up and sometimes I am down.

Sometimes I am almost level to the ground.

Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may follow Thee.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow Thee.

## *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

## THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

### Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in

one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN NO. 792**

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

**SERMON**

Rev. Keon Abner, Pastor of the Bridge Church

"One New Person"

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Elaine Turley

**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**

Arranged by Roland M. Carter

"Freedom"

Cheryl Murray, soprano

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

**Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 852**

"When the Lord Redeems the Very Least"

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

**\*BENEDICTION**

"This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let it Shine"

**POSTLUDE**

Florence Price

"Festal March"

## Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian's 11th Annual Black History Month Celebration

The Black History Education Committee of Forest Hill Church is happy to announce our 2023 theme: *Reparations vs. Jubilee*. During the month of February, the Black History Education Committee will lead the church in exploring this theme through a variety of interactive, open-to-the-public weekly activities.

Forest Hill Presbyterian welcomes the opportunity to learn grow and fellowship with our neighbors in Cleveland Heights and beyond.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

***February 12 at 2:00 PM: Experience Reverend Dr. Otis Moss Jr.'s Interactive Biography***

Join us in visiting the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage to see this groundbreaking AI generated interactive biography. Children and adults alike are sure to enjoy this unique exhibit. Join us here at Forest Hill Church in the parking lot for carpooling at 1:30 PM or meet us at 2929 Richmond Rd. at 2:00 PM for the tour. Tickets start at just \$10. Sliding scale available. For more information, please see a member of the Black History Education Committee.

***February 19 (immediately following worship): Teach In and Talk on Reparations vs. Jubilee***

What are the differences between reparations and Jubilee? This is the grounding question we will explore at our teach-in and talk. Black-owned Food Trucks will be available onsite, so grab a plate and settle in for a robust discussion!

***February 25 at 6:30 PM: Honoring Mother Willie Mae Wright***

The Wright Family Singers and Elégie will split the bill to offer a gospel concert on Saturday February 25th at 6:30 PM. FREE and open to the public.

This event comes with an extra layer of emotion for The Wright Family Singers, as it will be the first family concert since the passing of the family matriarch, Mother Willie-Mae Wright. Mother Wright was the original singer of the family and founded The Wright Family Singers with her 8 children in 1978. 3 of her children Bridgett, Deborah and Eric (the group's original accompanist) preceded her in death, yet the group continues on with her remaining living children and their children.

***February 26 at 4:00 PM: Live Ancestral Listening***

Join us for a special jazz concert at 4 PM which will feature local jazz musicians Robin Blake, Joshua Stone, Malika Turner, Kenesha Terrell and many others. This event will be followed by an open forum discussion facilitated by a special guest speaker, giving both participants and patrons the chance to discuss and perform the music. FREE and open to the public.

**LOOK AHEAD**  
**March 2023 Events**

***Create In Me A New Heart***  
**Lent 2023**

There is so much noise in the world, so many competing voices and so much division. How we long for the space and time to rest in the quiet, to move our bodies in gentle ways, to meditate on a passage from scripture, to join with others in a holy space.

This Lenten Season, Ying and I invite you to join us for a season of restoration and repair of our inner being.

***Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.*** Through sacrament, prayer, music and ashes we will enter the season of Lent, the 40 days before Easter.

***Wednesday, March 1, 15 and 29 7:00 p.m.*** Join us in the Chapel for 30 minutes, or so, of contemplative worship, gentle bodily movement, scripture and song as we create space for God's spirit to clear and clean as we seek a new heart for the living of these days.

**A light supper will be served (Deanne Lentz and Morag Keefe will be providing the meals) before each of these gatherings at 6:00 p.m. as we celebrate the sacramental gift of breaking bread together.**

All are welcome to join us when you can. In order to have enough food we would appreciate that you register here <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/c82a0c>. But know that there will be a place for you at the table.

~John and Ying



**Music She Wrote, 4 PM-6 PM @Forest Hill Church Presbyterian**

Tea reception and discussion at 4PM, Fellowship Hall with Jessica Kelley  
Concert at 5 PM in the Sanctuary

We are excited to kick off Women's History Month with a concert celebrating the works of female composers from the baroque era. Historically-informed musicians, Guillermo Salas-Suárez (violin) and Andréa

Walker (soprano), will present a dazzling performance of musical pieces with Qin-Ying Tan on the organ and harpsichord. In addition, our youth group will present recitations of poetry composed by female writers through the ages during the performance.

There will be a light tea reception and discussion of women's civil rights at 4PM in the fellowship hall prior to the concert led by CWRU sociology professor, Jessica Kelley.





**Prayer Request:**

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz ([pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto: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:**

Doris Allen (sister Diane Wilson passed away), Cooper Andrews, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Kitty McWilliams, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Susan Way, Peg Weissbrod 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 Groups** will assist our pastors with members' needs. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **head of the Deacons, Dean Sieck** ([deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

**Thank you, all office volunteers:** Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

**Thank you, all Stream Team Volunteers!** Anyone interested in helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas at [kurt@dangereddy.com](mailto:kurt@dangereddy.com).

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **February 16 (for the March TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

Rev. Abner's Liturgists are Kate Burleigh, Kurt Haas and Elaine Turley.  
Kate, Kurt and Elaine worked with Rev. Abner when he was on staff at FHC.

The Prelude today will include the Little Crescendos (directed by Julie Minder).  
Join them in singing: *I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing,*  
*Peace Like a Ring and Praise ye the Lord.*

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](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org) Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

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

**Please welcome guest preacher:  
Rev. Keon Abner, Pastor of the Bridge Church**

Keon grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Exposed to the gospel at an early age, Keon surrendered his life to Jesus when he was 9 years old. From salvation, Keon knew God called him to serve the local church. He met his wife Ashley while he was in high school, and they became close friends. Their freshman year of college they served a local church's youth ministry together (FHC) and the rest is history. They were married in 2016 and now are proud parents of their daughters Kailyn (4) and Ashtyn (1). Keon and Ashley have over 10 years of ministry experience.

Keon serves as the Lead Pastor of Bridge City Church, a new church in the Clark-Fulton Neighborhood that opened its doors in September of 2021. This church was born out of a passion to see people of all ethnicities, genders and ages experience the life-changing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.





01 FEB

01 MAR

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FOREST HILL CHURCH