

# Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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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**

*Forest Hill Church:*  
*Ash Wednesday*  
*February 22, 2023 ~ 7:00 PM*

You may also join worship online using this link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbxpAF\\_RCvQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbxpAF_RCvQ)

*The Community Gathers in Silence*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 51)**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.** Let us worship God.

**God's love endures forever.**

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Psalm 46:1-3*

**God's love endures forever.**

**INVOCATION**

**HYMN NO. 466**

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Isaiah 58:1-12**

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

**Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.**

"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

**Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.**

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

**Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not hide yourself from your own kin?**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and the Lord will say, 'Here I am.'**

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

**The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.**

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

**You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.**

**SILENCE**

“Give me a Clean Heart”  
Chancel Choir  
Jack Lentz, soloist

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But, whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**MEDITATION**

“Journey Inward, Journey Outward: Listening and Speaking”

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE  
AND TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
**May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**  
Remember that you are dust,  
**And to dust you shall return.**  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
It is truly right and our greatest joy... Jesus, lamb of God:  
**Have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins.  
**Have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world:  
**Have mercy on us.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

**THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES  
AND THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Erbarme Dich, mein Gott”  
Kameryn Lueng, alto soloist  
Guillermo Salas Suárez, violin

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled us to yourself. Following the example of our Lord Jesus, may we through prayer and fasting, obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN NO. 834

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Please leave in silence

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, March 4 from 4-6 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

harpichord. 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.