

Forest Hill Church: Worship Service

April 30, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-DLuO37fns>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*God of goodness and mercy, follow me all my days!
Source of grace and compassion, flow from me all my days!*

PRELUDE

Arr. Adler

"Hymns of a Sweet Hour of Prayer"

CHORAL INTROIT

Trad.

"Now the Green Blade Rises"
Chancel Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
Our help is in the name of the Lord, **maker of heaven and earth.**
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also, with you.**
Let us worship God.

*HYMN NO. 248

"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Renewing Our Relationship with God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN NO. 589

"Alleluia"

CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

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

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

“In Christ Alone”

Jack Lentz (tenor) and Em Ezell (soprano)

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striving cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.
There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His, and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No powr’ of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand,
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand!

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Psalm 23
Luke 24: 36-49

After the readings

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 803

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Kimberly R. Wagner

“Reticence and Resurrection”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone; we live in God’s world.
We believe in god:
Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
The word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others
By the spirit.
We trust in god.
We are called to be the church:
To celebrate god’s presence,
To live with respect in creation,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to god. Amen.

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Trustees’ Workday, May 6

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

J.S. Bach

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People
*CLOSING HYMN NO. 410

“God is Calling through the Whisper”

*BENEDICTION

“Sanctuary”

POSTLUDE

Mieir

“His Name is Wonderful”



Welcome, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner
The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner serves as the Assistant Professor of Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. She received a B.S. in Secondary Life Science Education from Miami University (OH), an M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and her Ph.D. from the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. Though she has served among the Lutherans and was educated among United Methodists, Dr. Wagner is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Previous experience on the pastoral staff of a PCUSA congregation in Virginia helps fuel and inform her present scholarship and teaching. She is passionate about supporting students’ formation and helping clergy and communities navigate the realities of an ever-changing world

and church. Her current writing and work focus on preaching and ministry in the midst and wake of trauma, particularly thinking about collective trauma, the role of the preacher, and the resources of our Scriptures and faith to respond to these moments. Dr. Wagner’s book, Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma (Westminster John Knox Press, 2023), offers guidance for preaching in the aftermath of communal trauma, including mass violence, natural disasters, and public health crises.



What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

The invitation, open to any church or mid council, has three goals:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples, actively engaged with their community as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



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, Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, Julie Minder, 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, 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). The deacon for the month of April is Susan (Kay) Dunlap.

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

Thank you, all Stream Team Volunteers! Anyone interested in helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas at kurt@dangereddy.com.

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **May 11 (for the June TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.