

*Forest Hill Church:
Easter and Communion Service*

April 9, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TZcAINwY1I>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*Risen Christ, enter our worship and our hearts this day.
As you live and move among us, remind us to proclaim and live the life you offer.
Inspire us to walk as children of your resurrection, each and every day.*

PRELUDE

J.S. Bach

“Prelude in D major” BWV 872

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Cora Bissett and Jessica Owusu

READER 1: After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

READER 2: And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

READER 1: His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

READER 2: But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

READER 1: Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

READER 2: So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

READER 1: Suddenly Jesus met them and said: “Greetings!”

READER 2: And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

INTROIT

“Easter Proclamation”

Clayton Minder

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 232**

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Carol Wedell

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the Good News of God's promise: Death and sin no longer have dominion.
We are forgiven and called to a new way of life. Praise be to Jesus our Risen Lord.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Joseph M. Martin

"Set Free Your Alleluia"

Chancel Choir

Voices in Bronze

Set free your alleluia. Release your songs of praise.
The radiant Christ commands it, and even death obeys.
The tomb has been defeated. The garden is restored.
A song of life is rising to greet the living Lord.
Set free your glad hosanna. Creation, find your voice.
The morning breaks with music. Arise, redeemed!
Rejoice! The silence has surrendered. The shadows shout and sing.
A song of life is rising to praise the King of kings.
Set free your life eternal. Receive the risen Son.
Embrace this new beginning and all that God has done.
For all things now are hopeful. God made us all to soar.
Unchained, we reach for heaven and glory ever more.
Set free your alleluia. Proclaim the risen Lord!

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

I Corinthians 15: 3-7; 20-22

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 240

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Our Origin Story"

Do Not Be Afraid

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Carol Wedell

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

G.F. Handel

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"
Madelaine Matej, soprano

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.**

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Pepper Choplin

"We Are Not Alone"
Chancel Choir
Jack Lentz, soloist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to a new way of life. We shall not fear for you are alive, no grave can hold you. We are alive again. Jesus, in your way, truth, and life we shall follow. May faith, hope, and love be our guide. May justice and joy be our call. Send us forth now into the world with Good News that shall conquer fear! AMEN

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 246**

"Christ Is Alive!"

*BENEDICTION

G.F. Handel

"Hallelujah Chorus"
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Felix Mendelssohn

"Heaven and Earth Display"

Easter Lily Dedications

The Banks Family: In celebration of their newest family member, Michael William Banks.

Chris and Dave Bell: In honor of their loved ones.

Jack and MaryAnn Breisch: In loving memory of Ben Breisch, Shirley and John Breisch, Jack and Ellarita Wolfe.

Sheryl and John Dugard, Jr.: In loving memory of their mothers, Mildred Sinkler and Hazel Dugard and in memory of their sisters, Sabrina Dugard, Kerima Vega, and Gwendolyn Lennon.

Em Ezell: In memory of Mark Laudeman and in thanksgiving for the Forest Hill Church Family.

Kurt Haas and Deedee Pim: In loving memory of Pamela Pim and Carl Haas.

Katie, Jon, Caroline, and Louise Hall: In loving memory of Bill Fay.

Barbara Hansen: In loving memory of Lamont Hansen and Ethel Van Fleet.

Cliff and Jane Kowall: In memory of their parents, Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul and Dorothy Kowall.

Suzanne Marcy: In honor of those who are homebound.

Joyce Pope: In memory of Dick and Elspeth Peterjohn, in thanksgiving for Adult Spiritual Growth Leaders, and in thanksgiving for Bible and Bagels.

Gretchen Reynolds: In honor of our Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian congregation.

The Schultz family: In memory of Walter A. Schultz and Mignon H. Schultz.

Nonie Stack: In honor of her grandchildren Robyn, River, Logan, and Olivia.

Kathy and Derry Stauffer: In memory of Dwight and Margie Stauffer and Dwight and Jane Hanna.

The Robert Weed Family: In loving memory of their parents and siblings.

Dene Young: In memory of loved ones.

Traits of the Beloved Community

1. Recognizes and honors the image of God in every human being
2. Recognizes and affirms, not eradicates differences
3. Takes the steps necessary to recognize and honor all voices, thereby fostering trust and embracing one another
4. Acknowledges limitations, ambiguity, lack of knowledge or understanding; listen and seek to learn
5. Speaks the truth in love, resolving conflicts peacefully and compassionately, without physical or verbal violence
6. Actively commits to justice through removing unjust systems without destroying people
7. Encourages and embraces artistic expressions of faith from diverse perspectives
8. Achieves friendship and understanding through negotiation compromise or consensus, considering each circumstance to discern which will be most helpful
9. Blends faith and action to generate a commitment to defeating injustice (not forgetting that injustice can also be found within the Church)
10. Promotes human rights and creates a just society by meeting the needs of everyone in the community, sharing power, and acknowledging the network of mutuality among all humans
11. Fosters dynamic and active spirituality through reliance on Scripture, prayer and corporate worship, recognizing God as dynamic and active in the world



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, 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 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).

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 **April 13 (for the May TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.