

Forest Hill Church: Outdoor Worship Service

June 18, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6Z44V9iNxg>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*We are marching in the light of God
Siyahamb' e-ku-kha-nyen'kwen khos'*

Greeting Our God with Joy

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is God. **It is God that made us, and we are God's; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and the Lord's courts with praise. **Give thanks to God and bless God's name.**

For the Lord is good; **God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

*HYMN NO. 413

"Come into God's Presence"

1. *Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"*
2. *Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord!"*
4. *Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this eve of Juneteenth, we give you thanks that slavery is over, yet the long tentacles of historic racism entangle us still. Forgive us, Lord, that inequities and injustice remain. Forgive us, Lord, that in the midst of such abundance too many go hungry and homeless; too many don't get the education or the health care that they need. We are still separated and unequal. We are still not in alignment with your plumb line of righteousness. Lord, forgive us. We want to walk the path of being the Beloved Community but we get lost, wander off, get distracted. But we trust that the journey is not over. The way is still before us. Restore us, revive us, align us so that we might be your people.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Michael William Banks

PRAYER OF WELCOME

Michael William, you have been received into the holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have become a member of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ. Walk with us as we continue the journey of becoming the Beloved Community. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the body of Christ. Alleluia! Live as a child of the light and let your light shine before others. Amen.

ANTHEM

Andraé Crouch

“My Tribute”
Janice Alexander, soprano

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Selected verses from:
Exodus 19:2-8a
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:23

After the readings

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

HYMN NO. 623

“I’ve Got Peace like a River”

I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul. (2x)
I’ve got joy like a fountain (2x)
I’ve got love like an ocean (2x)
I’ve got peace like a river (2x)

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Along the Way: A Meditation for Juneteenth”

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

Thomas A. Dorsey

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 852**

“When the Lord Redeems the Very Least”

- 1. *When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice!*
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice!
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we’ll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice.
- 2. *When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice!*
When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice!
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we’ll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice.
- 3. *When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice!*
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice!
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we’ll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice.

***BENEDICTION**

“Sanctuary”

POSTLUDE

Traditional African American Spiritual

“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands”

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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



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:

Anthony Bland, Deborah Howard, Rayba Johnson, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Anne Way, Susan Way and Sharon Wiggins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire 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 **July 13 (for the August TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.