

Forest Hill Church: Indoor Worship

Communion Service

July 2, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3Dv4hZ70as>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*"They will see you and know you – just as you are and just as you should be.
And you will say yes. I will go there with you. I have been waiting for this."*

~Jeanette LeBlanc

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O Sing to God a song of joy,
For we have been greeted by our God.
O Dance for God a waltz of welcome,
For we have been embraced by our God.
O Create for God a portrait of hope,
For we have been inspired by our God.

***HYMN NO. 406**

"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"

*We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we come before you with all our faults and problems. It is hard to be human and hard to be vulnerable. We have made errors and missteps. We have separated ourselves from you, knowingly and unknowingly. Our hearts are heavy. Allow us the space to unburden ourselves. Remind us that you are here with us, that we are never alone. Give us the grace and peace to start again.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Kelly Colemena and Mindy Meyers

"Leading the Way"
Sally Wile, Soprano
Carol Wedell, Alto

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD

Genesis 21:1-14
Elder Kate Burleigh
Elder Jean Reinhold
Rev. Carol Wedell

After the readings

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

SERMON AND THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Elder Jean Reinhold

“When God Calls”
During the prayers of the people, please respond “Here I am”

*RESPONSORIAL HYMN NO. 69

“Here I am, Lord”

*1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

Refrain:
***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***
*2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*
*3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Bach-Gounod

“Prelude in C Major”
Kiarra Saito-Beckman, violin

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

WE DISTRIBUTE THE GIFTS OF GOD TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Arr. Marty Parks

“What Wondrous Love is This”
Kiarra Saito-Beckman, violin

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, Divine Designer-
With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 699

“Fill My Cup”

REFRAIN:

*Fill my cup; let it overflow; fill my cup let it overflow;
fill my cup; let it overflow; let it overflow with love.*

*1. Lord, let me be your instrument, spreading sunshine in the land;
let people see your works in me; help me live the best I can. [REFRAIN]*

*2. It’s my desire to live for you and to always walk upright;
give me the strength to face each day; stay with me through each dark night. [REFRAIN]*

*BENEDICTION

"Sanctuary"

POSTLUDE

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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:

Nancy Burcham, Bob and Dianne Doyle, Deborah Howard, Rayba Johnson, Roz and Graham Peters, the family of Robert Kellermeyer, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Anne Way, Susan Way, Sharon Wiggins and Warren Young.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

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.