

*Forest Hill Church:
Outdoor Worship Service*

July 16, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr64BRd1Ull>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*See the light of God!
Feel the warmth of the Son!
Hear the Spirit in the music and the wind!*

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome friends! Come in from the busy summertime days to this place of worship.

We come to praise God.

Come in from the stress of everyday life into the knowledge that you are loved!

We come as seekers of the truth.

Come to this time of worship with offerings of praise.

We come to hear the word and to respond.

***HYMN NO. 388**

“Come All You People”

*Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come now and worship the Lord.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful One, we confess that we are burdened. It feels as if we have been tossed on rocky ground and left to struggle on our own. We wander down wrong pathways. We wither under pressure. We let the cares of the world choke out our desire to dig deeper roots in the soil of faith, hope and love. Forgive us. Till the soil of our hearts. Remove the rocky impediments that keep us from being open. Pull the weeds that choke our best intentions. Cast the seed one more time, O Lord, we are ready.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR ANDERSON MICHAEL ROBERT CAMINITI

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Anderson Michael Robert, you have been received into the one 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 and the priesthood of all believers. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the family, the body of Christ. Alleluia! Amen!

ANTHEM Lloyd Larson
“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”
Anna O'Connell, soloist

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word
THE LIVING WORD (NRSV) Matthew 13:1-9

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

***HYMN NO. 458** “Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet”
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

SERMON Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.
“Notes From the Field”

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 Brahms
“Intermezzo in E flat Major, op.117”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 837**

*1. What a Fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain) Leaning, leaning safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*2. O how sweet to walk in the pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)*

*3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)*

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN NO. 701**

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living, sanctuary for you.*

“Sanctuary”

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in G major, BWV 916”

J.S. Bach

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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

Traits of the Beloved Community, a Working Document

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:

Ed Dickson, 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 **August 17 (for the September TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.