

*Forest Hill Church:
Outdoor Worship Service*

July 23, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQdPqEh4jKk>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.*

~Psalm 86:11

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is none other than the house of God. This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

Surely the presence of God is in this place.

God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is so high we cannot attain it.

Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 625**

"O Lord My God"

*1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:*

***Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my
soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!***

*2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look
down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: (Chorus)*

*3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin. (Chorus)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Antonín Leopold Dvořák

“Sing Ye a Joyful Song”
Madelaine Matej, soloist

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Selected Verses from:
Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN NO. 621**

“I Will Call Upon the Lord”

Group 1: I will call upon the Lord

Group 2: I will call upon the Lord

Group 1: who is worthy to be praised

Group 2: who is worthy to be praised

Group 1: So, shall I be saved from my enemies

Group 2: So, I shall be saved from my enemies

Unison: I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Tossing Your Anchor Towards Shore”

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

F. Schubert

“Moment musicaux No. 6, D. 780”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 753**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

1. *Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt true faith in you.
(Refrain) O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.*
2. *Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy. (Refrain)*
4. *Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life. (Refrain)*

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN NO. 701**

“Sanctuary”

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

POSTLUDE

F. Schubert

“Klavierstück in C major, D. 946 No. 3”

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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:

Ed Dickson, Bob and Dianne Doyle, Deborah Howard, the family of Emelia McGuire, Roz and Graham Peters, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Anne Way, Susan Way, Sharon Wiggins, the family of Henrietta Williams and Warren Young.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Florence and Ron Klein and Carol Hopkins-Lutz.

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.