

Forest Hill Church: Outdoor Worship

August 13, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

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

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

“To be a Christian today in our world is to look a little bit like Jesus. It is to take seriously the reality of creation, to make this so-called option for the poor, to be really compassionate and merciful and to make something ultimate out of that mercy and compassion.”

~Jon Sobrino

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

Who is all around us and within us.

We need not look up to find God, we need only look around:

within ourselves, and beyond ourselves to all those we encounter.

God is in our midst, if we open our hearts:

to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the lives of those we know.

Let us worship God!

Who is all around us and within us.

***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.”

3. Praise the Lord together singing “Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb.”

4. Praise the Lord together singing “Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God.”

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How often, Loving God, we fail to recognize you in our midst. We are so busy looking at the newest shiny thing that we forget the multitude of ways you are manifest in our lives.

Forgive us, Holy One, when we think that you are confined to buildings, or particular

experiences. Forgive us when we think that you require perfection, instead of faithfulness.

Help us to see you in the everyday moments of our lives, and to trust that you are with us, as we step out in faith, seeking to be the people you call us to be. Hear now our silent prayers....

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Arr. Jack Schrader

“Here I am, Lord”
Laura Minder, Soprano
Julie Minder, Alto
Clayton Minder, Tenor

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (New Testament Reading)

Hebrews 11:1-2, 29-12:2

After the readings

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

HYMN NO. 543

“God, be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

- 1. God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*
- 2. Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.*
- 3. Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning,
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet; O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.*
- 4. Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.*
- 5. Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

SERMON

Rev. Carol Wedell

“Surrounded and Surrounding”

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

Brian Stokes Mitchell

“Make Them Hear You”
Clayton Minder, Tenor

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 741**

“Guide My Feet”

- 1. Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race;
guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*
- 2. Hold my hand while I run this race; hold my hand while I run this race;
hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*
- 3. Stand by me while I run this race; stand by me while I run this race;
stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*
- 4. I'm your child while I run this race; I'm your child while I run this race;
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*
- 5. Search my heart while I run this race; search my heart while I run this race;
search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*
- 6. Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race;
guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

*** RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (from A Wee Worship Book)**

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us,

Thanks be to God.

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

Thanks be to God.

For all the spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,

Thanks be to God.

Listen, Christ has promised to be with us in the world as in our worship.

Amen. We go to serve.

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

George and Ira Gershwin

“Nice Work If You Can Get It”

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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, Jaycox Family, Roz and Graham Peters, Beverly Thomas, the family of Fran Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Debbie Wagner, Anne Way, Susan Way 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.