

Forest Hill Church: Outdoor Worship

August 20, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIwmLJR4OyY>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*Breathe on me breath of God
Fill me with life anew
That I may love what Thou dost love
And do what Thou wouldst do.*

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 67)**

May God be gracious to us and bless us. **May the Lord's face shine upon us.**
That your way, O Lord, may be known upon earth, **your saving power among all nations.**
Let the people praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.**
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, **for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**
Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let the peoples praise you.**
The earth has yielded its increase; **God, our God, has blessed us.**
May God continue to bless us; **let all the ends of the earth revere the Lord.**
Let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 65**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

*1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.*

*Hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.*

*2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.*

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (From the Abingdon Worship Annual)

God of grace, you invite us to draw near and embrace the circle of your love. We come in anguish at our broken relationships – our alienation from one another, our resistance to reconciliation, our readiness to be the blind following the blind, and our readiness to give up when persistence is called for. Gather us in, and make a place to heal our anguish, ease our alienation, and end our resistance. Ready us for reconciliation, forbearance, and persistence. Turn our gaze to the one who calls our name.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In coming forth, we take a single step, and God faithfully bridges the gap. You are loved and your spirit is healed in the embrace of a God of love and healing. **Thanks be to God!**

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Arr. Joel Raney

“Faithfulness”
(based on the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness")
Madelaine Matej, Soprano

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, ‘Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.’ Then the disciples approached and said to him, ‘Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?’ He answered, ‘Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘Explain this parable to us.’ Then he said, ‘Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.’

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

After the readings

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

HYMN NO. 288

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (repeat)
Melt me; mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“What Goes In Comes Out”

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

Antonín Leopold Dvořák

“Sing Ye a Joyful Song”
Madelaine Matej, Soprano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 697

“Take My Life”
(Stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 6)

- 1. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee; take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.
- 4. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.
- 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

*BENEDICTION

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

William J. Gaither

“I Just Feel Like Something Good is About to Happen”

3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
Office: 216-321-2660
Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257
Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org
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, Jaycox Family, Roz and Graham Peters, Pat Seeders, 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 **September 21 (for the October TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.