

Forest Hill Church: Outdoor Worship

Communion Service

August 6, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc66OLq-j8>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*As you begin your preparation, pause for a few moments and begin to relax.
Take several deep breaths and rest in the loving presence of God.*

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Are you hungry for a word of hope? **We come to be fed and nourished.**
Are you yearning to see the bounty of God? **We long to see and believe.**
Are you ready to witness the power of our God? **We are ready!**
Come! Let us worship.

***HYMN NO. 14**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

- 1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*
- 2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and
stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*
- 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and
sight: Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*
- 4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle
thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**The beauty of the earth is all around us yet we pollute our world and bring danger to us all.
Creator God, you give in abundance; enough for everyone but we hoard. Loving Parent, you
welcome all but we are suspicious. Living Savior, you tell us to use what we have to build a
better world but we doubt we have enough. Holy Spirit, you move us to forgive, include,
celebrate, share. We fall short of living as you would have us live. Forgive us.**

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ’s grace is sufficient to meet every need. Rejoice and meet your God face to face, as you receive the bounty of God’s forgiveness. As sisters and brothers in Christ, let us turn and draw strength from one another, by sharing signs of Christ’s peace.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Getty and Rea

“God of Grace (with Amazing Grace)”

Em Ezell, Soprano

Jack Lentz, Tenor

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Selected Verses from:

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145: 8-9,14-21;

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-2

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 452

“Open the Eyes of my Heart”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;

*I want to see you; I want to see you; **(repeat)***

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing:

“Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.”

I want to see you.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“If Only”

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

Eddie Epinosa

“Change My Heart, O God”

Em Ezell, Soloist

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.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION from *Gymnopédies* by Erik Satie
“Lent et douloureux”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Bless the Lord, O my soul; **and all that is within me bless God’s holy name.**
Bless the Lord, O my soul; **and forget not all his benefits.**
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People
***CLOSING HYMN NO. 37** “Let All Things Now Living”
1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel, from light into light.
2. By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

***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 George and Ira Gershwin
“I’ve Got Rhythm”

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, Beverly 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.