

Service of Worship

September 4, 2016 at 10:00 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.

Our ushers have hearing devices, large print editions of the bulletin, activity bags for children staying in worship, and directions to our nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

May your listening be attuned
To the deeper silence
Where sound is honed
To bring distance home.

John O'Donohue

Welcome

Prelude

arr. Robert D. Vandall

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Rachel McDonald and Anne Wilson, pianists

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Elder Dele Solaru

Leader: Listen up, all you people! Pay attention.

Everyone, from highest to lowest, the proud and humble
together,

tune your ears to hear good news. Christ is revealed in worship.

People: We come with hope and open ears

to meet the One who is our all in all. Come Lord Jesus!

*** Opening Hymn No. 65**

“Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah”

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

How do we know what you want us to do, O God? Sometimes there are more questions than answers. We cannot decide what is due to you and how to deliver it. We confess that sometimes it is easier to do what others ask of us. If we have listened to the loudest voices asking for our support, or the ones which suit us best and ask least of us, in your mercy: Forgive us, O God. For we ask this in Christ's name, Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

M. S. Jesudason (India)

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

Assurance of Pardon

*** Response**

Paul Vasile

"Glory to God"

3 Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the
6 Son, whose grace has par-doned me, and to the Spir-it, whose love has
8 set me free. As it was in the be-gin-ning, is
now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

Anthem

J. S. Bach

“Alleluia” (from Motet No. 6)

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

Scripture Lesson

Philemon 1-25

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you

would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

After the reading

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*** Hymn No. 654**

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Sermon

Rachel McDonald

"Listening for Onesimus"

Prayers of the People

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.

Ritual of Friendship

Offering

Offertory

Keith Hampton

“True Light”

*** Response**

South African song

Ha - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our
3 hearts with glad - ness are filled. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
6 prais - es, all our hearts with glad - ness are filled. Now he
9 sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong of
13 faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful Good News. *repeat first part*

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Going Forth to Live as God's People

* **Closing Hymn No. 455** "Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken"

* **Commission and Blessing**

* **Choral Benediction**

* **Passing of the Peace**

Postlude

W. A. Mozart

"Rondo in C Major"

* *Please stand if you are able*



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Our website, www.fhcpresb.org, lists upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and texts and audio of past sermons.

Notes & Announcements

Chancel Flowers: Today's flowers are donated by Barbara Cloud in memory of her parents, Marguerite and Thomas Usher; and by Jim Manista in memory of all the war dead.

Many thanks to today's music leaders: Beth Zych, Mary-Francis Miller, Carl Jenks and Seth Ungemach.

Prayers are requested this week for: Max Harmon, Kathryn Himmelsteib, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Robin Richards, Robert Ruggeri, George Sentell, Joy Stang, Debbie Ungemach and Ann Williams.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Ruth Brickel, Bill Currie, Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Iris and Al Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Jack Quinn, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas.

The Deacons encourage you to stop by the Greeting Card Table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship to sign a card for any member who is ill or homebound. We will address and mail the card for you.

Care Group: The Bethlehem Care Group is responsible for meeting members' needs during September. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

Ushers: Thank you to Roger Heineman, head usher, and today's usher team.

Nursery care for babies and young children is available on the second floor of the Monticello Wing.

Coming Up

TODAY

The summer schedule ends TODAY. Next Sunday, September 11, worship is at 11 am (see schedule on p. 8).

Today is Hunger Sunday. Any cash or checks in envelopes marked Hunger will be used 100% for support of hunger programs. Each month we send the money to the Hts Emergency Food Cupboard (Disciples Church, Cleveland Hts.), the New Covenant Lutheran Church Hunger Center (East Cleveland), the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti, and Forest Hill Church's Abundance Pantry.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: **Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-10.**

Bible and Bagels discusses next week's text on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30. All are welcome!

The choir season starts this week! See the **TOWER** or the foyer bulletin board for details. Rehearsals begin for the Chancel Choir on September 8, Descant Choir on September 11, Voices in Bronze on September 15, and Sine Nomine Choir on September 18. See Anne Wilson for more information.

NEXT SUNDAY

Fall Festival: Just a week left to the FALL FESTIVAL. Remember, plan on staying after church on kickoff Sunday, September 11, for food and fun and a little magic..... COME AND SEE!

LOOKING AHEAD

Iris Circle (all women): Save September 20 for the next gathering— Anne Wilson will share her summer pilgrimage. See the **TOWER** for details.

Hilltoppers (retired): Join us on September 23 from 10 am – 2 pm for a Lolly the Trolley tour of Cleveland, followed by lunch at Shooters. The cost is \$23 plus your lunch. We'll carpool from the church at 9 am. RSVP to Nancy Burcham (440-446-0832 or burcham@roadrunner.com) by September 1.

The Unexpected Guest: All adult members, guests and visitors of Forest Hill are invited to be a part of a fellowship dinner event on Saturday, October 8. Contact Sue Lafferty (salaff@sbcglobal.net), Julie Lustic (jlustic@gmail.com) or Mary McMillan (mcmillan954@gmail.com) for more information, and look for sign-up information in email news.

Adult Education: Kerygma classes on “The Odd Couple: Jonah and Ruth” begin on September 11 with an introductory session at 9:30 am in Bodwell Hall.

Be sure you are registered to vote: Go to boe.cuyahogacounty.us to be sure you are registered, to find your polling place, or to print an application for a vote-by-mail ballot.

Staff Emails

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Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org

Youth News

This Week: Kickoff Lock-in on September 10! Watch for details or contact Shannon Headen.

Calendar: September 4-11, 2016

Sunday, September 4

9:30 am Child care begins
Continental Breakfast
10:00 am WORSHIP
11:15 am Coffee and Conversation

Monday, September 5: LABOR DAY Office is closed

6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)
7:00 pm Al Anon
7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)

Tuesday, September 6

1:00 pm Abundance Pantry distribution
5:00 pm Fitness Fusion
7:00 pm Living in the Spirit mtg

Wednesday, September 7

7:30 am Bible and Bagels
12:30 pm Wed. Women's AA
7:00 pm Deacons' meeting

Thursday, September 8

5:00 pm Fitness Fusion
6:45 pm Chancel Choir Potluck
and rehearsal
7:30 pm Forest Hill Swim Club

Friday, September 9

9:30 am Al Anon

Saturday, September 10

4:00 pm Youth Lock-in begins

Sunday, September 11: KICKOFF Regular schedule begins

9:30 Adult and Youth Education
Descant Choir followed by
Descant Choir Activity
Childcare for children thru
kindergarten
10:30 Continental Breakfast
Chancel Choir
11:00 WORSHIP with communion
Children's Worship Class (preK-K)
Pathways to the Promise Land
(gr. 1-5)
12:15 The Fall Festival: Under the Big Top!
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