

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship*

March 29, 2020 at 11:00 am

Worship streamed live on YouTube at 11:00 am

Please subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBdC3oSQvK0>

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Welcome

Prelude

John Bell

“The Summons”

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Come, people of God, to know again who we are and whose we are.

We return to the One who gives us life

We come as children of God, longing for a close walk with our Creator.

Gather together, all who feel spent and discouraged, all who are weighed down and worried.

Our bones are dried up; where is our hope in these days?

God’s spirit enters our “valley of dry bones”. God is calling us, to a time of worship that gives life!

Come together, from wherever we are. We are together here and now. Let us worship God!

***Processional Hymn No. 250**

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
2 There’s a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

**please stand as able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you call us to life in the Spirit, yet we focus on the stuff of this world that we have grown used to having every day. You call us to be your children, yet we insist on figuring out everything for ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, for living as if we can “go it alone” instead of admitting that you alone are the Holy One. Open our eyes to your gifts of this life, without always wanting more. Open our ears to your wisdom for each new day. Open our hearts to the love you send us in the Creation and each other, that we may be worthy to be called your people.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Merbecke

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

The Assurance of Forgiveness

God is already at work in our lives, accepting us where we are, loving us as we are, and granting us new beginnings, even if we cannot see the next steps until we take them. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Be Still and Know**

John Bell

All sing first time; 2nd time lower voices begin;
upper voices begin 1 measure later

5 Be still and know that I am God.

Be__ still and know__ that I__ am God.__

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' are written below the notes. A measure rest '5' is placed before the first note. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'Be__ still and know__ that I__ am God.__' are written below the notes, with a measure rest '5' before the first note. The second staff ends with a double bar line.

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

***Hymn No. 286**

“Breathe on me Breath of God”

1 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.
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Scripture Passage

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 -The Valley of Dry Bones

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

John 11: 17, 21-27-Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Eileen F. Vizcaino

"Imagine"

Prayers of the People /The Lord's Prayer

We thank you, O Holy One that you are our God, always there, always listening. Help us to face challenges we never dreamed of, with courage and grace, because you are with us. Fill health care workers with the strength of your Spirit, when human power wanes. Be with the sick, and those who fear what may come. Comfort those in floods and storms, those who lose loved ones, those fleeing wars, without homes. Our list is long, but your ears are big, your heart boundless. For all our pain and need, spoken and unspoken, we say together.....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.

Ritual of Friendship/ Offering

Offertory

J. S. Bach

"I Call to Thee"

***Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, may our offerings bring to others the promise of new life. Accept the gifts we offer to proclaim your love. Use our talents in ways that will set others free, that the liberating truth of Christ's gospel be heard, and seen, and felt.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

***Closing Hymn No. 39**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

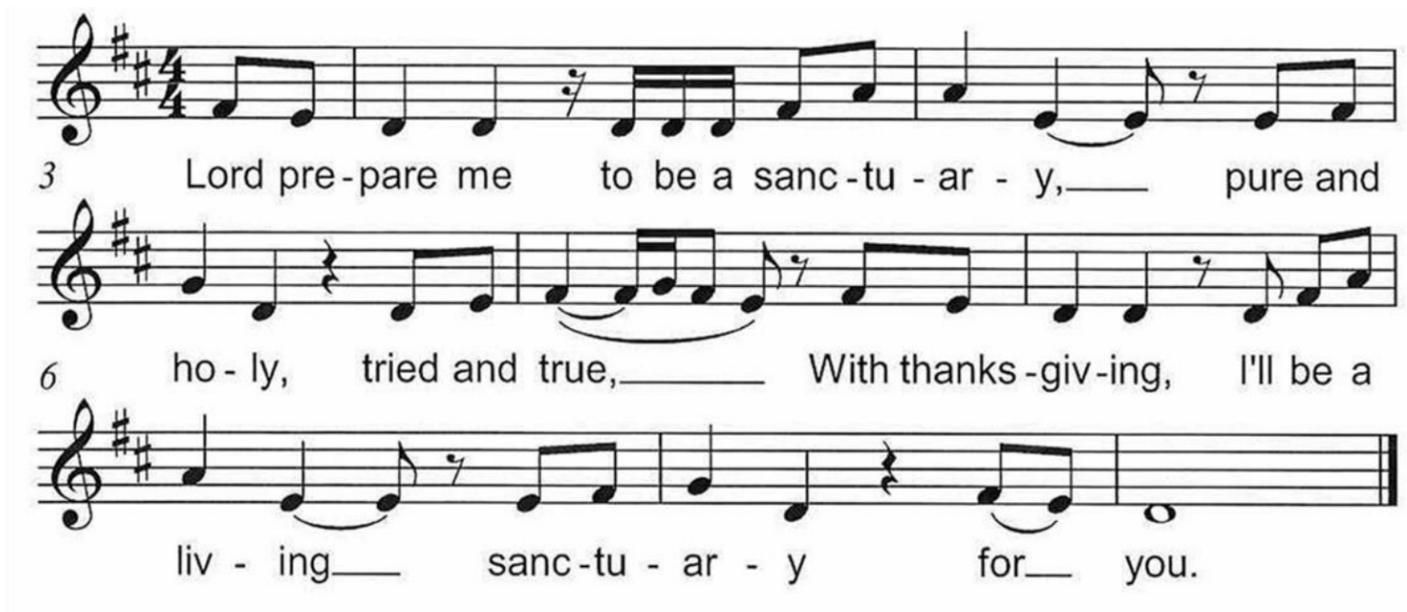
Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

***Commission and Blessing**

***Choral Benediction No. 701**

“Sanctuary”



3 Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and
6 ho - ly, tried and true, With thanks -giv-ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

*** Passing of the Peace**



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you soon and answering any questions you may have. Be sure to visit our website, www.fhcpresb.org, for a list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and past sermon texts and audio.

Notes & Announcements

Prayer Requests:

If you would like to request prayers for a personal concern, please send an email to Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) and Pastor Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org). The pastors will include them in the congregational prayer.

Prayers are requested this week for the following: Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, David Hunter, Joanna Klingenstein, Elspeth Peterjohn, Graham Peters, and Dean Sieck, the family of Lorian Thomas, Carolyn Vrtunski and Sharon Wiggins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, and Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

The Deacons encourage you to stop by the Greeting Card Table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship to sign a card for one or more of our homebound members. We will address and mail the card for you.

Care Group: *The Canaan Care Group* will assist our pastors in meeting members' needs during **March**. 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 leader, Rob Reynolds**.

Thank you, all office volunteers: Ellen McChesney, Cathy Ghiandoni, Lynda Bernays and Anne Smith.

The deadline for the bulletin or weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **(4/16/20) at 8:00 am**. You may submit your written request to office@fhcpresb.org.

To stay up to date on family programming, please subscribe to the Christian Education Newsletter: bit.ly/ceNewsletter.

Coming Up

TODAY

If you missed the *Ascension Concert* or would love to relive the experience that was held on February 23, we have CD's for sale for \$15 each. **Please contact Cynthia Lehman (716.830.4330 or lehman.cynthia@gmail.com) to reserve a CD.**

Forest Hill Softball Season is here. The team needs a few more players for the upcoming season. Games are played on Sunday afternoons. Anyone 16 and over can play! We don't know when the season will begin given the current health crisis, but if you are interested in joining the team, **please contact Jason Hidek at 440-264-3296 or jason.hidek@att.net.**

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels (Bible Study) discusses next Sunday's texts on Wednesday mornings (virtually) from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. The lessons for this week are: **Matt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50: 4-9a; Ps. 31: 9-16; Phil. 2: 5-11; Matt. 26: 14-27, 66; Matt. 27:11-54.**

Giving/donation options- Friends and family of FHC, during this time, you may give monetary donations using our website (www.fhcpresb.org) and click the PayPal link, or send payments using auto bill pay through your banking system. You may also mail in a check to the church (3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118).

The Racial Equity Buddies workshop, scheduled for Saturday morning, April 4, from 9 am to noon, has been postponed until we can gather in groups safely.

The Organizing Committee: Elizabeth Shaw, Kermit Lind, Barbara Cloud, Vikki Nowak, Chiquita Montgomery, Quentin Smith, and Lisa Vahey; Mark Joseph, consultant/advisor.

The Next Exploring Membership Course! Join us on May 16 from 9 am-12 pm and May 17 from 9 am-10:30 am. Come join, explore, or just learn more about us! **Please RSVP to Angela (church growth ministry) at churchgrowth@fhcpresb.org to attend.** Light breakfast will be served.

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord."

Lorian Thomas (age 96) died this week. She was the "first lady" of The Heights United Presbyterian Church where her husband Tommy served as the pastor. After Tommy's retirement, they joined Forest Hill Church in 1980. Lorian was a delight. She had a glowing smile and always had a good word to say. She was loved by many and will be missed. However, after a long and full life we can rejoice that for her death is past and the fullness of life eternal awaits. She is survived by four children: Fran, Elizabeth, Ralph and Lee and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines and Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Co-Pastors

"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure."

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

"Strength and dignity are her clothing... she opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue...Her children rise up and call her happy."

Proverbs 31: 25, 28

UPDATE FROM THE FHC IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

Due to the Lockdown in Ohio in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the FHC Immigration Task Force has developed new strategies for supporting both the men from Burkina Faso - Emmanuel, Idrissa and Issoufou - and Leonor Garcia and her family as face to face contact must now be limited.

Leonor

Meal drop offs and weekly visits to the Garcia family are cancelled. To replace in-person visits, weekly phone calls are being scheduled with Leonor. This way we can keep the friendship alive and lend support. **If you are close to Leonor and her family and wish to participate in this way, contact Sharon Shumaker at sms2924@gmail.com.** Her friends from FHC are encouraged to FaceTime with her and send cards. Cards should be made out to Leonor Garcia and family but mailed to the church: Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian (3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118). We will collect the cards and send them to her.

Should you be particularly close to Margaret, feel free to contact her as well. She also needs to be reminded that she has our support.

Emmanuel, Idrissa and Issoufou

The men are doing well, are aware of and concerned about the severity of the international health crisis, have been instructed in handwashing and like the rest of us are washing their hands regularly. Tutors have provided a lot of homework to keep them occupied. **The scheduling of in-person tutoring is on hold for now. Meal drop-offs for the men are on hold as well.** Their current food supply with donations from the pantry seems sufficient at present. On their own, using their phone, they set up a Facebook page and are finding connections with friends and family back home. Thanks to the support of many caring members of the church, the Task Force will soon be purchasing a laptop for the men to allow them to communicate online. We will inform you once this is possible.

Thank you for your caring support of our dear immigrant friends! Please email the Immigration Task Force at ITF@fhcpresb.org if you have any other questions.



EASTER LILIES, 2020: PLEASE ORDER BY APRIL 10

Name of Donor _____

“Given by” if different from donor _____

Indicate which form of dedication: In memory of / In honor of /In thanksgiving for/ To celebrate

Of plants @ \$20.00 per plant _____ Total cost _____

Of plants to be donated _____

Donated lilies will be taken to members who are ill or shut-in. Thank you for your donation. Please mail or deliver this to the church office. Please write Easter lilies on the memo line of your check.

Calendar: March 29-April 5

Sunday, March 29:

11:00 am Worship and Children's
Worship online
~~12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation~~
~~Sine Nomine Rehearsal~~
3:30 pm Reconnecting with Gods Creation
7:00 pm AA: Promises on Sunday

Tuesday, March 30:

~~10:00 am Fiber and Fellowship~~
11:00 am Abundance Pantry
Registration and Distribution
5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise
Bulletin and Email Deadline

Wednesday, March 31:

~~7:30 am Bible and Bagels~~
12:00 pm Staff Meeting (conference call)
12:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group
~~7:00 pm Guest Group: Speak Life Ministries~~

Thursday, April 1:

~~1:30 pm English Country Dance~~
5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise
~~6:20 pm Voices in Bronze~~
~~7:30 pm Chancel Choir~~

Friday, April 2:

10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand

Saturday, April 3:

9:00 am ~~Tax Prep~~
~~Fiber and Fellowship~~
~~Leadership Retreat~~

Sunday, April 4:

~~9:15 am Childcare begins~~
~~9:30 am Adult Education~~
~~Youth Education~~
~~Descant Choir~~
~~10:10 am Pathways~~
~~10:30 am Continental Breakfast~~
~~Chancel Choir~~
11:00 am Worship and Children's
Worship online
~~12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation~~
~~Sine Nomine Rehearsal~~
3:30 pm Reconnecting with Gods Creation
7:00 pm AA: Promises on Sunday

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Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors
Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries

Tara Beverly, Youth Leader
Anne Wilson, Director of Music