

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship*

July 5, 2020 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/PmkMwRjpxCc>

Centering Words

Holy God, Transform our ordinary praise into an extraordinary encounter in your presence! Thanks be to God. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Johannes Brahms

Intermezzo

CHORAL INTROIT

Funga Alafia

Lara Troyer and Seth Ungemach

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 86)

If you are here to celebrate, say, "Praise the Lord!"

"Praise the Lord!"

If you are here to dedicate your lives, say, "Use me Lord!"

"Use me Lord!"

If you are here to seek forgiveness, say, "Remember me Lord!"

"Remember me Lord!"

If you are here to seek a new way of life, say, "Change me Lord!"

"Change me Lord!"

The Lord is here—bless the Lord.

We are here—thank the Lord.

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!

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Lord of Love and Liberty, thank you for extending forgiveness and mercy. We confess our tendency to be more concerned about form than we are about substance. Deliver us from the temptation to hide from you as we engage in endless church activity. Help us to focus on the things that bring us new life and endless possibilities. Empower us to grow into a full, authentic and joyful relationship with you. In Jesus' name. Hear us now in silence...

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God hears the earnest prayers of those whose hearts are turned to God. Rise from this place with the assurance that God is at work within you and that God will see the marvelous work in your life to its completion. **Hallelujah, Amen.**

Alleluia

The musical score for Alleluia consists of four systems, each with a 'Leader' part and an 'All' part. The music is written in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ANTHEM

My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)

Lara Troyer and Seth Ungemach

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

FROM THE LIVING WORD

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30

¹⁶ 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, ¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.' ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone

to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.²⁸ ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 824

Near to the Heart of God

**1 There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.**

Refrain:

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.**

**3 There is a place of full release,
near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God. [Refrain]**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

Waiting to Exhale

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

Virtual Giving and Offering options are available on our website

OFFERTORY

Martin J. Nystrom

“As the Deer”

Lara Troyer and Seth Ungemach

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Mother-Father God, we feel like little children offering part of our allowance back to you. We joyfully offer what we have because you are a God who is able to transform our gifts into bread for the tables of those who hunger both for food and for love. Thank you for receiving the gifts we bring both great and small. Amen.

Eucharist

Invitation/Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord.

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

You Who Are Thirsty
Lara Troyer and Seth Ungemach

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN 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.

Verse two of sanctuary:

Consecrate me to do Your chosen ministry. Show me all you'd have me do—Your light possessing, make me a blessing, sharing works through new life in you.

--lyrics by the Rev. Ms. Ann Jefferson

BENEDICTION

Let the liberating power of God, who is able to set all captives free, unleash that power within and upon you, your families, your communities, and within all God's world. Go in peace with the love of Christ in your heart and with the will to love all of God's people justly, rightly, and fervently. **We go forth in the power of our Liberating God! Thanks be to God. Amen!**

Heaven and Earth Display*Notes & Announcements***Prayer Requests:**

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) or Pastor Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion next week's congregational prayer. Please direct all prayer concerns that arise between Friday and Sunday morning to the Pastor's on-call phone line (216-319-3596). This will ensure that your concerns are received in a timely manner. The on-call phone is operational after office hours and from Friday through Sunday morning.

Prayers are requested this week for: Mark Davidson, the family of Joanne and Bob Dawson, Marcie Denton, the family of Al Gilbert, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, the family of David and Anne Hunter, Joanna Klingenstein, Mamie Peterson, the family of Baldwin Sawyer, and Harold Thomas.

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

Care Group: *The Bethlehem Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **July**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **Care Group leader, Kitty McWilliams (deacons@fhcpresb.org)**.

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

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **August 13 (for September TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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

*Coming Up***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: **Gen. 25:19-34; Ps. 119:105-112; Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13: 1-1, 18-23.**

Call for Voices!

In this strange time of worship, we are trying creative and different ways to get together virtually to worship and sing "together". If you are interested in participating in our virtual choir projects, let me know! I also warmly invite anybody to come and sing with us on Sunday mornings during worship. We practice strict physical distancing. If you have *any* interest in joining us—or if you just have questions about the music program—please contact Ying (music@fhcpresb.org).

Calendar: July 5-12

Sunday, July 5:

11:00 am Worship (online)

Monday, July 6:

6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection

7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There's Hope

Tuesday, July 7:

11:00 am Abundance Pantry

Registration and Distribution

5:00 pm Bulletin and Weekly Email Deadline

Wednesday, July 8:

7:30 am Bible and Bagels (online)

12:00 pm Staff Meeting (conference call)

Thursday, July 9:

Activities are postponed until further notice

Friday, July 10:

10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand

Saturday, July 11:

Activities are postponed until further notice

Sunday, July 12:

11:00 am Worship (online)

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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
Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music**