

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship*

August 23, 2020 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/PKXhxCU696E>

Centering Words

*My heart cries out to you, Lord. Draw near to me that I may take hold of this worship moment,
in full surrender.*

PRELUDE

Arr. by John B. Dykes

Holy, Holy, Holy

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Margaret J. Douroux

Give Me a Clean Heart
Featuring Caleb Wright

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let the people now say,

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side when our enemies attacked us.

The flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

**We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 772

Live Into Hope

2 Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--
A vision of our God brought near.

3 Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

4 Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

CALL TO CONFESSION:

The apostle Paul appealed to Christians in Rome to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” Those who take this appeal seriously realize that they fall short of its realization. Let us confess our sins to God.

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Ever-present God, in trust we turn to you, confessing our sin. Too often we look for our own advantages rather than the well-being of others. We withdraw from those we consider less worthy than we, and court the attention of people who might enhance our position. At the same time, our faith falters in doubt, and we are frozen by our fears. What will it profit us if we gain the whole world but forfeit the fullness of life you intend? Forgive us, Lord, and restore us to new life in Christ. Hear us now in silence...

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our God, who led Israel from slavery in Egypt, leads us from our slavery to the worst in ourselves. Jesus assures us “Those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” Rejoice in your new freedom and opportunities! **Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia

The musical score for 'Alleluia' consists of four staves of music in 7/8 time. Each staff begins with a 'Leader' part and ends with an 'All' part. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'.

ANTHEM

Mitch Leigh

The Impossible Dream
Featuring Caleb Wright

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD

Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, ‘Look, the Israelite immigrants are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew

midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’ ²Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 52

“When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go!

Refrain:

Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:
let my people go!
4 O let us all from bondage flee;
let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free:
let my people go! [Refrain]

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

Midwives of Divine Liberation

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 options are available on our website
You may also place your offering by texting 216-400-5300

OFFERTORY

Improvisation

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN

Sanctuary

1. Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
2. 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.

BENEDICTION

3. Lord, I'm ready to be a sanctuary,
Filled with power from above—
Please lead me this day to walk and talk in Your way,
Bearing witness to Your great love.
(2nd and 3rd verses by Rev. Ann Jefferson)

POSTLUDE

William Steffe

Battle Hymn of the Republic



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). The on-call phone is operational after office hours on weekdays and Saturday through Sunday morning.

Prayers are requested this week for: Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Baldwin Sawyer, the family of Margie Stauffer, and the family of Harold Thomas.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Doris Brandt, Marge Drollinger, Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams, and Warren Young.

Care Group: *The Nazareth Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **August**. 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, Sheryl Dugard (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 **September 17 (for the October TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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: **Exod. 3:1-15; Ps. 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c; Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16: 21-28**.

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**Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors
Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music
Carol Wedell, Parish Associate**