

*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship*

November 22, 2020 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSvrAE1KQu4>

Centering Words

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
there is a crack, a crack in everything
that's how the light gets in.
-Leonard Cohen*

PRELUDE

S. Rachmaninoff

Vocalise

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart
Madelaine Matej Macqueen, soprano

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the Lord! **Let us rejoice and be glad for this day!**

God is faithful! **And worthy of our best praise.**

Do not be afraid! **For nothing can separate us from God's love through Jesus our Lord.**

Be joyful and of good spirit. **For we are God's children; blest, gifted, and forgiven.**

Come, let us worship God. **We will rejoice and be glad for this day!**

HYMN NO. 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
Mortals join this happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, you call us to use our gifts for the building of God's kingdom. But we are afraid.
Christ Jesus, you urge us to find our courage and not look back. But our gifts seem so small.
Holy Spirit, you have given us everything in abundance. But we are timid. What if we fail?
Forgive us. Help us to trust the gifts you have given us. You have given us more than
enough!**

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice, sisters and brothers: God loves you. You are forgiven and freed. Accept this and move on for God wants to use you in wonderful ways.

Alleluia

The musical score for 'Alleluia' consists of four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The first two staves are marked 'Leader' and the last two are marked 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'.

ANTHEM

W.A. Mozart

Laudamus te (trans. We Praise You)
Madelaine Matej Macqueen, soprano

*Laudamus te, Benedicimus te,
Adoramus te, Glorificamus te
We praise You, We bless You,
We adore You, We glorify You.*

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Matthew 25: 14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good

and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 450

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my vision and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me Lord;
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Just Go For It

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

Mary Ann Breisch

Sometimes We Thank You

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN NO. 772

Live into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own Jubilee.
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.

BENEDICTION

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
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.
(2nd verse by Rev. Ann Jefferson)

POSTLUDE

Now We Thank Our God



FHC NOTES

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 in 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: Kiva Bohanon, Kathy Cameron, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, Cara Hall, Lillian Houser, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Kitty McWilliams, Susan Way, and the family of Dick Peterjohn.

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.

Care Group: *The Calvary Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **November**. 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, Kathryn Himmelsteib** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

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