

*Forest Hill Church
Worship Service*

February 28, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/bwC4CmPOb3I>

Centering Words

*In the midst of troubles, struggles, and a world gone wild,
we trust not only that God delights in and sings over the
entire world a melody of renewal, God mightily delivers us.*

--Adapted from Valerie Bridgeman Davis

PRELUDE

Arr. Calvin Taylor

Wayfaring Stranger

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Arr. by H.T. Burleigh

I Got A Home In-A Dat Rock

Janice Alexander, soloist

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

John and Sheryl Dugard

Someone asked the question: why do we sing? **When we lift our hands to Jesus, what do we really mean?** Someone may be wondering: when we sing our song...**at times we may be crying, and nothing's even wrong.** We sing because we're happy. **We sing because we're free. God's eye is on the sparrow, that's the reason why we sing. Glory hallelujah! God's the reason why we sing.** If somebody asks you: was it just for show? **Lift your hands and be a witness, and tell the whole world, "No!"** We sing because we're happy. **We sing because we're free. God's eye is on the sparrow, that's the reason why we sing.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 339

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

--Excerpts from M. Moran Weston

O God, we acknowledge we do not see clearly, nor fully understand: open our eyes and our perception. **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.**

O God, we acknowledge we have too often been unwilling to take a stand and keep it no matter the cost: **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.**

O God, we acknowledge we have too often been unwilling to face the agents of corrupt power without fear or flinching: **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.**

O God, we acknowledge that too often we have not had confidence in Your power to bring light out of darkness, good out of evil. **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.**

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

--Excerpts from M. Moran Weston

By faith, we follow Jesus the Carpenter, People's Leader, Chosen One, Prisoner, Defendant, Condemned Man and Confident Man. **We believe that good will indeed overcome evil, love overcome hate, and life overcome death. Hallelujah! Amen.**

Musical score for "Hallelujah! Amen" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures, and the second system has five measures. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia A - men A - men". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand. The voice part is a simple, joyful melody.

BAPTISM

Ann E. Donkin

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

Slideshow/Video Presentation

ANTHEM

Rainbow

Duffy Lit Ensemble

Youth Ensemble:

Joslyn Luton, Juan Green, Karma Sweet,

Aujia Bogarty, Triniti Coleman

Choreographed by Edna Duffy

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! 'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!' Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 661

Why Should I Feel Discouraged (His Eye is on the Sparrow)

1 Why should I feel discouraged?

Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion?

My constant friend is he:

his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,

I sing because I'm free,

for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

3 Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,

when song gives place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,

I draw the closer to him,
from care he sets me free:

his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,

and I know he watches me. **[Refrain]**

Lift Every Voice and Sing: Celebrating a Theology of Voice

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

Arr. by Edward Boatner

Bye And Bye
Janice Alexander, soloist

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN 339

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Freedom
Duffy Lit Ensemble
Choreographed by Edna Duffy with improvisation by soloist, Joslyn Luton

**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, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, the family of Bill Fay, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Paul Jennings, Joanna Klingenstein, Kitty McWilliams, Elspeth Peterjohn and Susan Way.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

Care Group: *The Jordan Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **March**. 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, Bader Boland** (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 **March 18 (for the April 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 7:30-8:30 am. The lessons for this week are: **Ex. 10:1-17; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.**

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

Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries

Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble is a 501-C 3 nonprofit Performing Arts Organization whose mission is to study, research and perform the American Negro Spiritual which includes its refractions of Blues, Gospel and Jazz with emphasis on the movement that formed the rhythmic foundation of these songs. The choreography is set with the stories in mind that each Spiritual tells. The choreography gives us an historical picture of times gone by, social justice issues we face today and a glimpse into the future. The Choreographed Spirituals tell the story of faith, hope, optimism and perseverance in the fight for social justice in this present day volatile world.