

*Forest Hill Church
Worship Service*

March 7, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/-kp9-Rky67w>

Centering Words

*Just as I am without one plea
O Lamb of God, I come.*

PRELUDE

It is Well with My Soul

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Mark Foreman

Come, Holy Spirit
Madelaine Matej, soprano

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kylie, Adam, Violet and Clementine Evans-Majot

Called by Christ, **we gather as one.**

Blessed by God's wisdom, **we gather to learn.**

Amazed by God's love, **we gather to worship!**

Come! **Let us worship God.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 442

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

Just as I am without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict,
many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, you call but we do not listen. You want us to come just as we are, but we feel so unworthy, no matter what words we hear. We confess our doubts, our "fighting's and fears within, without." You still want us to come? You still want us to be part of your beloved community? You still love me?

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

These words are true and worthy of full acceptance: God loves you! You are forgiven!

ANTHEM

Lloyd Larson

The Power of the Cross
Madelaine Matej, soprano

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

I Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Foolishness

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

G.F. Handel

Piangerò la sorte mia (trans. "I Weep for My Fate")
Madelaine Matej, soprano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Arr.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed by God's wisdom we go forth refreshed and renewed. Fed by the sacrament we have been nourished by the Spirit in community. Called by Christ we go now to serve. Amazed by God's love we go now to love.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN 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 wisdom, 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.
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou
only first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

BENEDICTION

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.
(2nd verse by Rev. Ann Jefferson)

POSTLUDE

Austin Lovelace

Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless



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: **Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107: 1-3, 17-22; 1 Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.**

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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



We have another new member to add to the FHC family, Catherine Vinci: *I grew up in the church, I went off to college and then left the country for a couple of years; during that time, I wasn't really able to be a part of a community or a church family which is so important to me. Since I have been home, I have been trying to find my church family. I attended a couple of churches in the past few years but never felt at home and ready to commit to a membership. 3 main things drew me to Forest Hill Church:*

- 1. Everyone was very welcoming, and I did not feel like an outsider.*
- 2. People can be themselves here, and there is a presence of love that you can feel.*
- 3. Forest Hill Church is actively involved in the surrounding community.*