

Forest Hill Church
Easter Service and Communion

April 4, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/5g9YHyipOaY>

Centering Words

*God of grace, we come today to hear the story of Easter.
Open our hearts, that we might hear your truth anew.
Be with us on the journey that leads to life and hope. Amen*

PRELUDE

J.S. Bach

Prelude in C major
Irwin Shung, organ

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Sally Wile, soprano
Laura Minder, alto
Jack Lentz, tenor
Seth Ungemach, bass

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Video by Amy Wheatley

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN NO. 246

"Christ is Alive!"

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PROCLAMATION

God of hope, in the midst of death, you call forth life. When all hope seemed gone, you raised Jesus from the grave. We come before you today, longing for your life-giving presence. God of new life, raise us up with all your people. Lift us from the tombs of our despair and doubt, that we may rejoice in your power over death. God of joy, fill our hearts with alleluias as we sing your praises. Glory to God. Amen!

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God's steadfast love endures forever, calling forth new life and joy!

RESPONSE:

Give Thanks

ANTHEM

Mark Miller

Love Brought Me Back

Sally Wile, soprano

Laura Minder, alto

Jack Lentz, tenor

Seth Ungemach, bass

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. **There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;** the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly." **I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. **I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.** The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. **This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

*“Between Terror and Amazement”
The Expulsive Power of a New Affection*

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 DANCE PRESENTATION

Yolanda Adams

Let Us Worship Him
Nicole Holiday

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks
Sally Wile, soprano
Laura Minder, alto
Jack Lentz, tenor
Seth Ungemach, bass

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ is risen! We have had a taste of the kingdom feast. We have no reason to fear. Our eyes are open to the holy work that is before us. Thank you, Lord, for life and love and hope. Let us take this good news to the streets! Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN

Because He Lives

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.

BENEDICTION

G.F. Handel

Hallelujah Chorus

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Idrissa Kiema, Issoufou Lembane,
and Emmanuel Sabo

Drum Circle

Thank you everyone that purchased an Easter lily this year!

- Dave and Chris Bell: In memory of loved ones.
- Nancy Burcham: In memory of all those loved ones we lost due to COVID-19.
- Sheryl and John Dugard: In memory of our mothers Mildred Sinkler and Hazel Dugard
- Marina Grant: In memory of all those love ones we lost due to COVID-19.
- Jane Kowall: In memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul and Dorothy Kowall.
- John and Deanne Lentz: In loving and thankful memory for Peter E. Lentz and John C. Lentz Sr. from Roberta E. Lentz and for all of the saints of Forest Hill who died this past year.
- Kathryn McWilliams: In memory of my precious mother.
- Rob Reynolds: In memory of loved ones.
- Carolyn Smith: In loving memory of my husband Rev. Andrew Smith.
- Derry & Kathy Hanna Stauffer: In loving memory of our parents Dwight & Margy Stauffer, Dwight & Jane Hanna.
- Peg Weissbrod: In loving memory of Bill Fay.
- Ann and Peter Williams: In honor of our mothers, Betty Williams and Dorothy Sawyer.

**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:

Leslie Clement, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Beth Garrett, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Elspeth Peterjohn, Carol Phillips (sister of Ellen McChesney), Carolyn Vrtunski, Dean Sieck, Susan Way, and Carol Wedell.

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 Corinth Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **April**. 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, Dean Sieck** (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 **April 15 (for the May 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: **Acts 4: 32-45; Ps. 133; 1 John 1:1-22; John 20:19-31.**

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

Office: 216-321-2660 Fax: 216-320-1214

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

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