

*Forest Hill Church
Worship Service*

April 11, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/Qlvz-aCn38k>

Centering Words

*Out of despair comes hope. Out of fear comes affirmation.
Out of threat come conviction. Out of our hearts comes praise.*

PRELUDE

Schumann

Warum

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight
Madelaine Matej, soprano

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 133)

Behold, how good it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down over the collar of Aaron's robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained God's blessings, life forevermore.

Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN 248

Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:

all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus:

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in your infinite wisdom, you bring the dawn of each new day. We praise you for sending Jesus the Christ with the promise of new life. In faith, we ask you to scatter the clouds of darkness and speak to our doubt, so that our eyes can see the truth of your love. With this, and each new day, remove all that hinders us, and illumine our world with your presence and your redeeming grace. Thank you for replacing the finality of death with the affirmation of life without end. Gracious Lord, receive our worship, we pray in Jesus' name, amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Friends, together let us affirm this truth: "If we confess our sins, Jesus Christ is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Hallelujah! Amen!"

Musical score for the Assurance of Forgiveness section. The score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures of music. The second system starts with a measure number '5' and has five measures of music. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia A - men A - men

ANTHEM

G.F. Handel

I Know My Redeemer Liveth
Madelaine Matej, soprano

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 256

These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

1 These things did Thomas count as real:
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of blood and bone.
3 His reasoned certainties denied
that one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like Braille
the markings of the spear and nail.
4 May we, O God, by grace believe
and thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw, imprinted hands reached out
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

Resurrection and Story Conversion

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

J.S. Bach

Jesu, Joy of God's Desiring
Madelaine Matej, soprano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN 250

In the Bulb There is a Flower

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach, Arr. by Irwin Shung

Sanctus from B minor Mass
Irwin Shung, organ

**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 3: 12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48**.

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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