

Forest Hill Church Service

Communion Sunday

May 2, 2021 at 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/mABf1XbJwv4>

Centering Words

*Christ is the vine. We are the branches.
Abide in the vine, and you will abide in love.*

PRELUDE

Gabriel Fauré

Poco Allegretto

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

The Gift of Love

Virginia Weiss, mezzo-soprano

Seth Ungemach, bass

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **Maker of heaven and earth.**

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

Cry out to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 515

I Come with Joy

1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.
5. Together met, together bound, by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PROCLAMATION

Source of love and life, we yearn to set aside our fears, we long to serve our sisters and brothers, we desire to abide in you as you abide in us, but what we desire we do not always do. We get distracted and tired. We wander from your way. Forgive us. We trust that you will not give up on us. Don't let us give up on ourselves or one another. In Jesus' name.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the good news! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. The old life has gone; a new life for you has begun.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff has a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, D, E, A, D, E. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The second staff is identical to the first, with chords A, E, Bm, E, A, D, E, A. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are also written below the notes.

ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love is This
Virginia Weiss, mezzo-soprano
Seth Ungemach, drums

HYMN NO. 507

Come to the Table of Grace

1. Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of Grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.
2. Come to the table of peace...
3. Come to the table of love....
4. Come to the table of hope...
5. Come to the table of joy....

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop,

and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Outsider Insurgent

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

You Are My Strength When I am Weak

Virginia Weiss, mezzo-soprano

Seth Ungemach, bass

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious, merciful and loving God, you have shown us what love looks like. Nourished once again on the Word and Sacrament, we are empowered by you to show others what your love looks like in this world of ours.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN 769

For Everyone Born

1. For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

3. For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, and young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

5. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
in work to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

C.H. Rinck

Postlude in D

**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 Jerusalem Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **May**. 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, Laura Minder (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 **May 20 (for the June 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 1: 15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.**

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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