

*Forest Hill Church  
Worship Service*

*June 13, 2021 ~ 11:00 am*

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/MMOgNbKfZRI>

*Centering Words*

*"God, if You are there, I need You to reveal Yourself to me."*

*--Wellington Boone, from Breaking Through*

**PRELUDE**

Arr.

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Arlo Duba and Hal H. Hopson

*"How Lovely Lord, How Lovely"*

Madelaine Matej, soprano

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends, hear the words of the Lord: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, says the Lord. (Isaiah 58:8).

**For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.**

God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise... the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

**God chose the lowly things of this world, and the despised things, and the things that are not... so that no one may boast before God.**

Let us worship God!

**OPENING HYMN NO. 339**

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

1. 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.
3. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and Righteous God. hear our prayer.

**Whoever my enemies are, they have nothing on the damage I do to myself.**

I fail to recognize the strengths and abilities you've given me. **Forgive me.**

Too often I lose my way, and need your direction. **Guide me.**

I need your compassion, salvation, eternal viewpoint. **Reorient me.**

Restore in me your steadfast love, goodness, and faithfulness. **Save me.**

**Show us the way, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Convict us and cleanse us from sin, comfort the disturbed, disturb the comfortable, and restore our union with you and with one another.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

God loves us. God hears us. God helps us.

**No matter what, we are God's.**

God trusts us. God tries us. God cares for us. God tends to us.

**No matter what, we are God's. Praise God! We are forgiven.**

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 chords A, E, D, E, A, D, E above it. The second staff has chords A, E, Bm, E, A, D, E, A above it. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes on both staves.

#### **ANTHEM**

Antonín Leopold Dvořák

*"Turn Thee to Me"*  
Madelaine Matej, soprano

### *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

#### **THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)**

**I Sam. 15:34-16:13** Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, how long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons. Samuel said, how can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, take a heifer with you, and say, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you. Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, Do you come peaceably? He said, peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord. But the Lord said to Samuel, Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, neither has the Lord chosen this one. Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he

said, neither has the Lord chosen this one. Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, The Lord has not chosen any of these. Samuel said to Jesse, Are all your sons here? And he said, there remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here. He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, Rise and anoint him; for this is the one. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN NO. 353**

*"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

### **Refrain:**

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness seems to hide his face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. **[Refrain]**

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. **[Refrain]**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

*"God's Ways"*

## **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**

E. L. Ashford

*“Improvisation”*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

**CLOSING HYMN 100**

*“Canticle of Turning”*

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great  
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight  
And my weakness you did not spurn  
So from east to west shall my name be blest  
Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain:**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near  
And the world is about to turn!

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
Work great things in me  
And your mercy will last from the Depths  
Of the past to the end of the age to be  
Your very name puts the proud to shame  
And to those who would for you yearn  
You will show your might  
Put the strong to flight  
For the world is about to turn **[Refrain]**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Henri D'Aubel

*“Allegretto”*



**Prayer Request:**

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz ([pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org)) or Pastor Goines ([pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org](mailto: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:**

The family of Penny Chapman, Leslie Clement, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Beth Garrett, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Steve Marunowski, Elspeth Peterjohn, the family of Carol Phillips (sister of Ellen McChesney), Dean Sieck, Eileen Vizcaino, Susan Way, Carol Wedell, and Ann Williams.

**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 Bethlehem Care Group*** will assist our pastors with members' needs in **June**. 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, Kitty McWilliams** ([deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto: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 **June 17 (for the July/August TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your articles to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

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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**