

Forest Hill Church Service

Communion Sunday

August 1, 2021 ~ 11:00 am

Gather around the computer to worship God!

Please join our YouTube Live Stream:

<https://youtu.be/MBmhZKXTpbw>

Centering Words

PRELUDE

arr. Adler

“Hymns of a Summer Morning”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

John Newton/Haydn

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Laura Minder

Julie Minder

Clayton Minder

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

As one body of Christ, **we gather together this day.**

Blessed by one Spirit, **we gather in unity and love.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 401

“Gather Us In”

1. Here in this place, the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this place our fears and our dreamings brought her to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;

Call us to now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;

Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away:

Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;

Gather us in, all people together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (From Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Wash me and I shall be clean. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

By Christ's grace we are forgiven and love. Nothing separates us from "the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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. Above the notes are guitar chords: A, E, D E A, D, E. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The second staff has the same melody and lyrics, with guitar chords: A, E, Bm E A, D, E A.

ANTHEM

Leonora and Hannah Reed

"All Are Welcome"

Amanda Powell, singer and keyboardist

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a;

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

John 6:27-35

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So, they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Writing Straight with Crooked Lines”

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

arr. Adler

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Invited to the Lord's table we have shared the bread of life and the cup of salvation. In the Spirit of peace, we go into the world. May we share the unity and love we have found here, that others may touch the presence of Christ's peace, and the grace of God's love.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

CLOSING HYMN 526

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound.

2. Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound.

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again; earth can breath again; pass the Word around: loaves abound.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bach, after Vivaldi

"Allegro in F major"



Special guitarist for today:

Dave Bell, Kurt Haas, and John Lentz

Prayer Request:

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, Dara Elliot, Beth Garrett, Pastor Veronica Goines, Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Steve Marunowski, Elspeth Peterjohn, Doreen Underwood, Grace Uhle, Susan Way, the family of LeAnn West, and Sharon Wiggins.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

Care Group: *The Jericho Care Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **August**. 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, Sue McCauley** (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 **August 19 (for the September TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.