

*Forest Hill Church*  
*Outdoor Worship Service*  
*September 5, 2021 ~ 11:00 am*

You may still join worship virtually!  
Visit our YouTube Live Stream link below:

<https://youtu.be/lvaHCZeHj8Y>

*Centering Words*

*Remember God's gracious abundance and give thanks.*  
*Remember Christ's call upon our lives to be faithful.*  
*Open yourself to the Holy Spirit. For this is the time to worship.*

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

by Duke Ellington

"Come Sunday"

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**We gather surrounded by God's Holy Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Christ.**

Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fills our days.

**Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and justice.**

**HYMN NO. 12**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
3. To all life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**God of us all, your grace and mercy fill our lives every day. Yet too often we forget or ignore your presence in our lives. We are fearful of change and loss. Forgive us. May your spirit heal us. May we be the people of hope you have called us to be.**

*Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Brothers and Sisters, hear the good news: the grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to forgive and to show us how to live fully and freely. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## HYMN NO. 286

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

- (1) Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
- (2) Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
- (3) Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

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

### THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

#### Mark 7: 24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

#### *After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

*“Stretched”*

## 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

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

## CLOSING HYMN 700

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work...

I'm gonna sing ...

I'm gonna live...

## BENEDICTION

3 Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
6 ho - ly, tried and true, With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

## POSTLUDE

“Children, Go Forth Where I Send Thee”



### 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:

Leslie Clement, Mark Davidson, Dara Elliot, Beth Garrett, Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Cindy Newton, Elspeth Peterjohn, Grace Uhle, Susan Way, 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 Mt. Sinai Care Group*** will assist our pastors with members' needs in **September**. 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, Laurie Rose** ([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 **September 16 (for the October TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests 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**