

*Forest Hill Church  
Worship Service*

*September 19, 2021 ~ 11:00 am*

Welcome back to in-person worship!

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/1s9xFi231qk>

*Centering Words*

*The wisdom from above call to us --  
calling us to peace and gentleness, kindness and mercy, goodness and service.*

**PRELUDE**

by Franz Schubert

“Andante”

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

by Jim Strathdee

“A Wilderness Wandering People”

Christine Fuller, soprano

Jack Lentz, tenor

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Draw near to God. **For God is drawing near to us.**

Open yourself to the free-flowing grace of Jesus Christ. **We thank you Lord for your boundless mercy and love.**

Breathe deeply of the breath of the Holy Spirit. **Come Holy Spirit, fill us, free us, form us.**

Now we are ready to worship God.

**HYMN NO. 20 (Please hum along)**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

**(Refrain)** All things bright and beautiful all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

**1.** Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings. **(Refrain)**

**2.** The purple headed mountain, the river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. **(Refrain)**

**4.** God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. **(Refrain)**

*Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Servant God, humble our hearts, even when we are proud. Call us back to service and love, even when our focus is lost in the pursuit of power and prestige. Remind us to be childlike in faith and to be faithful as your children. Cover us with your grace and unify us in your peace, that we may embrace your wisdom from above and your humility from below. In your mercy, and grace, we pray. Amen.**

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**With the nourishment of Christ, the Living Water, we are refreshed and made new. In God's mercy and grace, we are again claimed as God's children and called in God's service.**

### **ANTHEM**

Arr. Lloyd Larson

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Christine Fuller, soprano

Jack Lentz, tenor

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

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

#### **Psalm 1**

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup> for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

#### **Mark 9:30-37**

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

#### *After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN NO. 467**

“Give Us Light”

1. Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.
2. Give us life; give us life; give us life, O Lord.
3. Grant us peace; grant us peace; grant us peace, O Lord.
5. Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

*“Like a Child, Like a Tree”*

**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**

Improvisation

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Going Forth to Live as God’s People*

**CLOSING HYMN 546**

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.
2. Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel’s joyful sound;  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

**BENEDICTION**

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
Move in the land, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free.  
Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

**POSTLUDE**

by Henri Aubel

“Allegro Maestoso”



**Chancel Flowers:**

Today the flower arrangements were donated by Rachel Martinez-Finn and Bill Finn: In loving memory of their parents, Diana and Jaime Martinez and Barry Finn.

**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, Doreen Underwood, 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:** Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Nancy Grube.

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **October 14 (for the November 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**