

*Forest Hill Church  
Worship Service*

*January 9, 2022 ~ 11:00 am*

You may join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/j3glmzQX7AU>

*Centering Words*

*The God of cleansing waters and purifying fires, touches our lives today to recall us to the power of our baptism and reconfirm our commitment to Jesus Christ.*

**PRELUDE**

Tan Dun

“Joy”

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Edwin Hatch

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”  
Madelaine Matej, soprano

*Greeting Our God with Joy*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gather from East and West, from North and South.

God is calling us; listen for God is naming you.

**The voice of God thunders through our midst.**

**The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty.**

Bow in awe before the one who created you.

God knows you completely, yet accepts you.

**The voice of God commands our attention.**

**The voice of God is like fire and tornado.**

God reaches out to strengthen, not condemn us.

God brings us through terror to a place of peace.

**Ascribe to God glory and strength.**

**Worship God in awe, wonder, and joy!**

**HYMN NO. 482**

“Baptized in Water”

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

## *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

O God, the waters of faithfulness run deep, and we have been afraid they will overwhelm us. The fires of your Spirit burn brightly, and we fear we may be consumed if we display too much enthusiasm. We retreat to safe places where we hope to avoid challenges, conflicts, and uncertainty. When we shrink from risks, we miss much that enriches life. We fail to notice your amazing activity among those who respond to your leading. Free us, we pray, for daring service. Amen.

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

God has redeemed us, claimed us, and called us by name. We are precious in God's sight. There are no safe hiding places in life, only the assurance of a relationship with God who is trustworthy, in life and in death. Surely God will strengthen us to face times of difficulty. The assurances of God are eternal.

### **ANTHEM**

Antonín Leopold Dvořák

"I Will Sing New Songs"  
Madelaine Matej, soprano

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

### **THE LIVING WORD**

#### **Isaiah 43: 1-7**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up", and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

#### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22:**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN NO. 490**

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

1. Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,  
newborn creatures of your womb.  
Number them among your people,  
raised like Christ from death and tomb.  
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;  
compass them with love and light.  
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,  
holy dove and heart's delight.
2. Every day we need your nurture;  
by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast, partaking  
cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us; guide our footsteps,  
free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying,  
by your Spirit, children, heirs.
3. O how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you,  
water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer.  
Recreate us; God, transform!

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

*"Baptism: Out of the Womb"*

**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/form/f861d6>  
You may also mail a check to the church office.

## OFFERTORY

Antonín Leopold Dvořák

“Turn Thee to Me”  
Madelaine Matej, soprano

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

## BAPTISMAL RENEWAL CEREMONY

## CLOSING HYMN NO. 676 (AAHH)

“Wade in the Water”

### Refrain:

*Wade in the water,  
wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water,*

*God's gonna trouble the water.*

**1.** See that host all dressed in white,  
God's gonna trouble the water.

The leader looks like the Israelite,  
God's gonna trouble the water. **[Refrain]**

**2.** See that band all dressed in red,  
God's gonna trouble the water.

Looks like the band that Moses led,  
God's gonna trouble the water. **[Refrain]**

**3.** If you don't believe I've been redeemed,  
God's gonna trouble the water.

Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,  
God's gonna trouble the water. **[Refrain]**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Ira B Wilson

“Postlude”



**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:**

Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Elspeth Peterjohn, Jean Reinhold, Rob Reynolds, Austin Schwaderer, Sherry Thomson, Grace Uhle, and Susan Way.

**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.

**Thank you, all office volunteers:** Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **January 20 (for the February 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, Director of Music**

**Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate**