

*Forest Hill Church
Worship Service*

May 29, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

https://youtu.be/5Vf_FNmDQEs

Centering Words

"While we hold onto things that divide us, Jesus prayed that we may all be one."

PRELUDE

Edward Elgar

"Nimrod"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

John Bell

"God Welcomes All"

God welcomes all, strangers and friends
God's love is strong and it never ends

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

John 17:20-26

Friends, Jesus prayed to God for believers of all time, saying:

"I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one—I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

OPENING HYMN NO. 307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hear our individual confessions, O God, as we recall the ways we ignore you every day. Listen to our regrets over the abuse we have heaped on others by our words, actions, or neglect. We join together in asking forgiveness for the ways our church inflicts injury on members of the household of faith while excluding many who differ from us. We live by our own devices rather than taking risks to follow where Christ might lead us. Deliver us, O God, from empty forms to receive the fullness of your grace and power to live as you intend. Hear us now in silence. . .

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Rejoice, O righteous ones, and give thanks to God's holy name. Through Christ, God's forgiving love is poured out on all who earnestly seek to be changed. We are drawn into a unity that transcends our differences and a faithfulness beyond our ability to achieve. Praise God!

GLORIA

Taizé

All sing first time. Second time: low voices, begin; high voices enter two measures later; children and youth enter two measures after that.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ANTHEM

arr. Peter Wilhousky

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
He have loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on
I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps
His truth is marching on Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on
In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free
His truth is marching on Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

ACTS 16:16-34

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most-High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 505 (AAHH)

"Somebody Prayed for Me"

- 1.** Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind,
took the time to pray for me. I'm so glad they prayed,
I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed for me.
- 2.** My mother prayed for me, had me on her mind,
took the time to pray for me. I'm so glad she prayed,
I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed for me.
- 3.** Jesus prayed for me, had me on his mind,
took the time to pray for me. I'm so glad he prayed,
I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed for me.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines

"The Power of Prayer"

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

"If Thoughts and Prayers c. 2018."
Chancel Choir

Henry Lebedinsky

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 306

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

BENEDICTION & THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

"Unprecedented Times"
Torrell Moss, percussionist

Torrell Moss



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:

Kiva Bohanon, Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Nicole Lawrence (went to Jamaica for the death of her uncle, Patrick Lawrence), Joanna Klingenstein, Dave Neff, the family of Margaret Sentell, Paul Tuggey (father of Christina Hidek), Grace Uhle, and Susan Way.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

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

Care Group: *The Nazareth 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, Kay Dunlap** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

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 **June 16 (for the July TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to 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