

*Forest Hill Church:
Outdoor Worship Service*

August 28, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGCZY0r2IOA>

Centering Words

*Worship the Lord with gladness,
And enter God's presence with songs of joy. (Psalm 100:2)*

PRELUDE

George Gershwin

"Summertime"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

1. Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

ALL: We come to worship God.

1. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.
2. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
1. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

ALL: We come to worship God.

2. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

PASTOR: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

ALL: God, our creator and sustainer. We are yours and we worship you.

Living God, gather us into your house to sing your praise today. Jesus Christ, teach us to follow you in the way the truth and the life. Holy Spirit, send us from this place with good news for everyone.

OPENING HYMN NO. 413

"Come into God's Presence"

1. Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."
2. Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."
3. Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."
4. Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that the sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Melanie Delmore
Em Ezell and Jack Lentz

“Lead in Love”

You gotta put one foot in front of the other

And lead with love

Put one foot in front of the other

And lead with love

V.1 Don't give up hope (Don't give up hope)

You're not alone (You're not alone)

Don't you give up (Don't you give up)

Keep movin on (Keep movin on)

V. 2 Lift up your eyes (Lift up your eyes)

Don't you despair (Don't you despair)

Look up ahead (Look up ahead)

The path is there (The path is there)

V. 3 I know you're scared (I know you're scared)

And I'm scared too (And I'm scared too)

But here I am (But here I am)

Right next to you (Right next to you)

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

REFRAIN:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. **[REFRAIN]**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Creating a Community Sermon”

- In your own words what is this passage about?
- What does this say about the Kingdom of God?
- Jesus was critical of the table etiquette exhibited.
Does this speak to our present context? How?
- OK. But... “Is there a place of unrest in you?”
 - Anything else jump out at you?

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

Trad.

“Wayfaring Stranger”
Brian Misch, voice and guitar

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 769

“For Everyone Born”

1. For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born,
clean water and bread, a shelter, a space,
a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.

REFRAIN: And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part of the song.

The hand of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. **[REFRAIN]**

5. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear,
and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. **[REFRAIN]**

Going Forth to Live as God's People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

“What a Wonderful World”



Prayer Request:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer.

Prayers are requested this week for:

Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Muriel Dean, Betsy Hammet (sister of Carolyn Vrtunski), Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Keith Logan, Dave Neff, Rob Reynolds, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Susan Way, Peter Williams and Caleb Wright (grandmother Wright passed away).

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 Mt. Sinai 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, Laurie Rose** (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 **September 15 (for the October TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate