

*Forest Hill Church:
In Person Worship Service*

August 7, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhICCE-YGhc>

PRELUDE

J.S. Bach

“Prelude in C Major BWV 870”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Schutte/Vosper

Laura, Julie and Clayton Minder

“Here, All Belong”

Truth be told, when gathered here, we can all our sorrows bear,
held in hearts made strong by love; we shall not fail.

Aged wisdom, questing youth, all connected, seeking truth,
altogether, each inspires –here all belong.

May we find here, what we’re seeking.

May we share the strength to carry on.

May the love here do the healing,
lift our hearts, and make us all as one.

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 33:12-15, 20-22)

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom God has chosen as God’s heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven and sees all humankind.

From where God sits enthroned God watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

God who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in the Lord, because we trust in God’s holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

OPENING HYMN NO. 20

“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]**

3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. **[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:

Holy God, we know that even when we have done everything we can do to prepare for your renewal of creation, we are not ready. We are too hasty. We overlook too much. We depend upon ourselves – upon our own ideas and energy and determination. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us our self-absorption, our indifference to your efforts to engage us, and our failure to pray, to listen, and to hear. We ask in confidence of your eternal love and care that you lift us up and renew us anyway, despite our lack of preparation. Grant us hope, despite our lack of insight. Be the sunrise to us, despite our insistence on avoiding your light. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus, who leads us on our way.

WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

Indeed, our God has chosen all of humankind, from all time and into all time, as recipients of God's all-embracing love. God watches us all and re-creates us all, minute by minute and day by day. We can be assured that our trust in God's love, forgiveness, hope, and power is returned to us a thousand-fold as we are fashioned and knit into the creatures God calls us to be.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

Mark Miller

Laura, Julie and Clayton Minder

"Child of God"

No matter what people say, say or think about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God

No matter what people say, say or think about you,
You are a child, you are a child of God.

No matter what the world say, say or think about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God

No matter what the world says, decision, pronouncements on you,
You are a child, you are a child of God

And there is no thing, or no one who can separate,
They can't separate you from the truth that
You're someone, you are family, you are meant to be,
A child, a child of God! You are a child, a child of God!

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these

died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 850

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

1. In a deep, unbounded darkness long before the first light shone,
You, O God, beyond all merit, worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as Your own.
evermore and evermore.
2. Though our world is ever-changing, you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to Your covenant promise. Trusting You, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure.
evermore and evermore.
3. Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in Your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh, in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse Your face
evermore and evermore.
4. God of Hagar, God of Sarah, God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miriam, God of Moses, Fiery Pillar, great I Am:
lead us homeward, lead us homeward,
to the love-feast of the Lamb evermore and evermore.

SERMON

Rev. Robin Craig

“Ready or Not, Here I Come!”

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

"Prelude in D Flat Major"

Frederic Chopin

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 339

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1. Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;

lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;

shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,

true to our God, true to our native land.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Menuet from Le Tombeau de Couperin"

Maurice Ravel



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, Barb Cloud, Mark Davidson, Muriel Dean, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Keith Logan, Dave Neff, Rob Reynolds, 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 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 **August 11 (for the September TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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



**Let's welcome guest preacher for today,
Rev. Robin Craig!**

The Rev. Robin Craig found her way into the Presbyterian Church via the Forest Hill congregation in the early 1990s. Burned out and worn out, she spent several years sitting in the back pews while watching her daughter Marissa become involved in the Children's Choir. Eventually, Robin was drawn into membership and leadership, particularly in the area of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. Her adventures and mis-adventures here led her to

an M.Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and to certification as a spiritual director by the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University. She was ordained to ministry in our sanctuary (!) in 2011 at a service in which she was grateful to draw support from members of Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, and Jewish communities and most especially from our wonderful pastors and choir.

Robin has served as Pastor and Interim Pastor to Presbyterian and Lutheran congregations in the Muskingum Valley Presbytery and in Euclid, Bay Village, Independence, and Westlake. Most recently, she spent a year as the Parish Associate for Pastoral Care at Old Stone Church before retiring for a second time. She has held various leadership roles in our Presbytery and in the Ignatian spirituality community, has been involved in interfaith relations, and has published articles and essays on loss and on the church's role in bereavement care. Robin and her husband David Williams have been engaged in the endless project of home repair and maintenance in Cleveland Heights for over forty years. Their son Matt and his daughter Amaya live down the road, and their daughter Marissa is moving back to Cleveland Heights from the Bay Area this upcoming week!