

Forest Hill Church: Worship Service

September 11, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3XxL6HgaYg>

Centering Words

*“Be still in the presence of the Lord,
and wait patiently for him to act.” Psalm 37: 7
Lord, help me to relax. Take from me the tension
that makes peace impossible. Take from me the fears
that do not allow me to venture. Take from me the worries
that blind my sight. Take from me the distress
that hides your joy. Help me to know
that I am with you, that I am in your care,
that I am in your love, that you and I are one.*

*(Source: David Adam in “The Open Gate” SPCK 1994,
posted on the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand [website](#)).*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Peggy A. Thompson

“Proclamation”
Voices in Bronze

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

O praise the Lord with me, **let us exalt God’s name together.**

O sing to the Lord a new song; **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

O Come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation! **Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.**

Praise the Lord! **The Lord’s name be praised!**

OPENING HYMN NO. 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

REFRAIN:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto thee.

2. Summer and winter, springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(REFRAIN)**

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(REFRAIN)**

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HALLELUJAH, AMEN

Hal-le - lu-jah, hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le -
lu-jah, a - men! In all I say and I do: Hal-le -
lu - jah, a - men!

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

ANTHEM

George F. Handel, arr. by P. Liebergen

“Praise! Praise!”

Chancel Choir/Ahren Stock, trumpet

Praise, praise!

Let ev’ry nation give praise to the Lord,
Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all.

Praise, praise!

Let ev’ry nation give thanks to our God, resound joyful praise.

Let ev’ry nation give thanks to our God, rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all,

O rejoice, praise the Lord and give thanks.

The glory and power of God we proclaim,
And sing with a loud voice the Lord’s holy name,

And sing, and sing,

And sing with a loud voice the Lord’s holy name.

Praise, praise!

Let ev’ry nation give praise to the Lord, rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all,

O give praise, give the Lord joyful praise.

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also, my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 14:1-7

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 473 (Psalm 23)

"Shepherd Me, O God"

Cantor will sing the verses and indicate when the congregation will sing the refrain.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Maze or Labyrinth?"

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

Peggy A. Thompson

“Meditation”
Voices in Bronze

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution and the Breaking of the Bread.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ragan Courtney

“In Remembrance of Me”
Chancel Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul; **and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.**

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of the Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

CLOSING HYMN NO. 741

“Guide My Feet”

1. Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain.

2. Hold my hand ...

3. Stand by me ...

4. I’m your child ...

5. Search my heart ...

6. Guide my feet ...

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

BENEDICTION

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

“Allegro in D major”



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 Eden 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, Deanne Lentz** (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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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