

Forest Hill Church: Worship Service

September 18, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiGSCO6Ni_s

Centering Words

Choose a word and focus on it for a few minutes

*Examples: Lord, Jesus, Father, Mother, Abba, Amma, Jesu, Kyrie, Love, Peace,
Mercy, Silence, Stillness, Faith, Calm, Hope, Trust, Yes.*

PRELUDE

Felix Mendelssohn

“Heaven and the Earth Display”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Swahili Praise Song

“Mungu ni Mwema (Know That God is Good)”
Chancel Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Evans Majot Family

Kylie, Adam, Violet and Clementine

Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, **for the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods, **for God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 26

“Earth and All Stars!”

1. Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done mar-vel-ous things. We too sing praises with a new song!
2. Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done mar-vel-ous things. We too sing praises with a new song!
3. Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done mar-vel-ous things. We too sing praises with a new song!
4. Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done mar-vel-ous things. We too sing praises with a new song!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

PASSING OF PEACE

“The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also, with you.”

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Marcie Denton
and the Stream Team

ANTHEM

Arranged by Andre J. Thomas

“The Drinking Gourd” Chancel Choir

Follow the drinking gourd, follow the drinking gourd,

for the old man is awaitin’ for to carry you to freedom if you follow the drinking gourd.

Follow, follow, follow, follow the drinking gourd. When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,
Follow the drinking gourd.

The river bank will make a very good road. The dead trees will show you the way.

Left foot, peg foot, traveling on, follow the drinking gourd. The river ends between two hills,
Follow the drinking gourd.

There’s another river on the other side, follow the drinking gourd.

Where the great river meets the little river, follow the drinking gourd.

Follow the drinking gourd, follow the drinking gourd,

for the old man is awaitin’ for to carry you to freedom if you follow the drinking gourd.

Follow the gourd!

CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Luke 16: 1-13

The Story of the Crooked Manager

^{16 1-2} Jesus said to his disciples, “There was once a rich man who had a manager. He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal

expenses. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What's this I hear about you? You're fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.'³⁻⁴ "The manager said to himself, 'What am I going to do? I've lost my job as manager. I'm not strong enough for a laboring job, and I'm too proud to beg. . . . Ah, I've got a plan. Here's what I'll do . . . then when I'm turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.'⁵ "Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'⁶ "He replied, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' "The manager said, 'Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.'⁷ "To the next he said, 'And you, what do you owe?' "He answered, 'A hundred sacks of wheat.' "He said, 'Take your bill, write in eighty.'⁸⁻⁹ "Now here's a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is *right*—using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you'll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior."¹⁰⁻¹³ Jesus went on to make these comments: If you're honest in small things, you'll be honest in big things; If you're a crook in small things, you'll be a crook in big things. If you're not honest in small jobs, who will put you in charge of the store? No worker can serve two bosses: He'll either hate the first and love the second or adore the first and despise the second. You can't serve both God and the Bank.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 699

"Fill My Cup"

REFRAIN:

Fill my cup; let it overflow; fill my cup let it overflow;
fill my cup; let it overflow; let it overflow with love.

1. Lord, let me be your instrument, spreading sunshine in the land;
let people see your works in me; help me live the best I can. **[REFRAIN]**

2. It's my desire to live for you and to always walk upright;
give me the strength to face each day; stay with me through each dark night. **[REFRAIN]**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"The Art of the Deal"

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

Tchaikovsky

“Autumn Song”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 753

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there’s doubt true faith in you.

REFRAIN:

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there’s sadness every joy. [REFRAIN]

3. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we’re born to eternal life. [REFRAIN]

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

E.L. Ashford

“Postlude”



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, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Beverly Thomas, 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 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 **October 13 (for the November TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.