

*Forest Hill Church:
Worship Service*

September 25, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_B6i0YYINU

**please stand if able*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Caribbean Traditional

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marina Grant

Why have we gathered for worship?

In worship we bow in thanksgiving and gratitude before our Creator. We affirm that it is God who has made us and not we ourselves. In worship we affirm that we are not alone. God is with us.

Why is this important?

Because worship energizes us for our life’s mission.

What is our life’s mission?

We are called by our Creator, in whose image we are made, to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. We are called by our Creator, in whose image we are made, to mend what is broken, to love and serve others, to resist evil and in so doing love God with all our mind, soul, and strength.

There can be no greater mission in our broken world.

Come, let us worship! Let us renew our spiritual energy for carrying forward the great mission God sets before us!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 409**

“God Is Here!”

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

O Blessed Redeemer and Healer of our every ill, we come before you trusting in your mercy and thankful for your love. We have not earned these great blessings. Sometimes we have not even acted in ways which value these blessings or even promote them in our daily lives. We confess our sins of commission as well as omission. We ask that you grant us a discerning spirit that we may see you more clearly and act more faithfully as your disciples. We rely on your mercy and grace. We give you thanks and praise for your steadfast love and care. Amen.

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

Mark Miller

Chancel Choir/ Laura Minder, soloist

"I Believe"

[Text by an anonymous Holocaust prisoner

Musical setting by Mark A. Miller]

I believe in the sun. I believe in the sun

Even when, even when it's not shining

I believe in the sun. I believe in the sun

Even when, even when it's not shining

I believe in love. I believe in love

Even when, even when I don't feel it

I believe in love. I believe in love

Even when, even when I don't feel it

(I believe in love)

I believe in love. I believe in love

Even when, even when I don't feel it

(I believe in love)

I believe in love. I believe in love

Even when, even when I don't feel it

I believe in God. I believe in God

Even when, even when God is silent.

*Opening Our Hearts to God's Word***THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)****Luke 16:19-31**

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 432

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

verse 1 (high voices)/verse 2 (low voices)

verse 3 (all voices)/verse 4 (all voices)

1. How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
2. But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear; if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.
3. We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure: whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name, and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.
4. In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you: the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker

“The Spiritual Scam that Keeps on Scamming”

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

Claude Debussy

“Clair de Lune”
Jessica Martin, harpist

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 315

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

REFRAIN:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways? [REFRAIN]

2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions,
And despair, who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? [REFRAIN]

3. As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. [REFRAIN]

4. We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. [REFRAIN]

5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. [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

Jean-Baptiste Lully

“Chaconne de Phaëton”
Case HIPPI String Quartet

GUEST PASTOR



Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker served as a pastor of a local United Methodist Church for 43 years; 32 of those years was as the Senior Pastor of what came to be known as University Circle United Methodist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

He has been an active member of the United Methodist Denomination. He has served and was elected a delegate several times to its General and Jurisdictional Conferences and Chair of the General Conference Host Committee for the 2000 General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. He has held a number of positions within the East Ohio Annual Conference, including the Annual Conference Secretary. FHC is glad to have you this morning!

GUEST MUSICIANS

Jessica Martin, harpist

Jessica recently received her masters of music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Currently, she works in arts administration at various organizations. Jessica is originally from Michigan where she loves to see the sunset. In Cleveland, she has discovered her passions for hiking and ice cream.

Case HIPP String Quartet

Bruno Lunkes, Phaik Tzhi (pronounced as "PIK-zer") Chua, Andrew Hatfield, and Jane Leggiero

The Case HIPP String Quartet is made up of graduate students at Case who are currently pursuing degrees in **H**istorically-**I**nformed **P**erformance **P**ractice. They spend equal amounts of time in study and rehearsals, and enjoy applying researched information about composers and their music to their musical performances.





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:

The family of Joanne Bielek, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Rev. Matthew Peterson, 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 Calvary Group* will assist our pastors with members' needs in **October**. 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, Kemp Jaycox (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.

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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