

# *Forest Hill Church: Worship Service*

*January 22, 2023 ~ 11:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/qNiAC7TOj0Q>

*\*Please stand if able*

## *Centering Words*

*Where there is darkness, there is also light.  
Look for the light – places of love, joy, grace, and hope.*

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **INTROIT**

John Bell  
Chancel Choir

*“Stand Firm”  
Stand, O stand firm;  
Stand firm and see what the Lord can do.*

## *Greeting Our God with Joy*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come seeking God, **the one who guides us and protects us.**  
People of God there is nothing to fear, **for God dwells in our hearts.**  
Let us shout with joy, for God is here! **Let us sing praises to the Holy One!**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

God of light, we come tired and weary, carrying many burdens. We come wondering if you are even here. We come seeking your face, seeking your love. In this moment, Holy One, open our hearts to the mystery of your love. Remind us that you are always with us and that you never leave us. Reassure us that you love us, even as you invite us to love one another. In this time and space, may we say “yes” to you. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

## **\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 301**

*“Let Us Build a House”  
(Stanzas 1,3 and 5)*

## *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, as we seek your love and light, there are times when the gloom of the shadows invades our lives. Forgive us when we hide our true selves from you. Forgive us when we quarrel with one another, allowing our pride to overcome our commitment to the community. Forgive us when we give life’s activities priority over following the ways of Christ. O God, open our hearts to your grace, as you once again fill us with your love and light. Amen.**

## **TIME OF SILENCE**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

People of God, hear the good news of the gospel and rejoice! **We are forgiven, and God’s grace sets us free to love again. Amen.**

**ALLELUIA NO. 588**

Leader: Alleluia

**All: Alleluia!**

*Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

**CHILDREN'S WELCOME**

Amy Wheatley

*Children will leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.*

**ANTHEM**

John Rutter  
Chancel Choir

*"Gaelic Blessings"*

*Deep peace to you, Deep peace of the earth to you,*

*Deep peace of the stars to you, Deep peace of the night to you.*

*Moon and stars pour light on you, Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you,*

*Deep peace of Christ to you.*

*Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

**THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Matthew 4:12-23**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

*After the readings*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN NO. 293**

"Loving Spirit"  
(Stanzas 1,3 and 5)

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Calling all Disciples"

**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**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 300**

"We Are One in the Spirit"

All on refrain  
Verse 1: Low Voices  
Verse 2: All  
Verse 3: High Voices  
Verse 4: All

*Going Forth to Live as God's People*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*HYMN NO. 701**

"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**

Robert Franzblau

"Praise Him with the Sound of Trumpet"



**Prayer Request:**

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz ([pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto: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:**

Cooper Andrews, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Ginie Mast, Kitty McWilliams, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Susan Way, Peg Weissbrod and Sharon Wiggins.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:**

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

**Care Group: *The Corinth Group*** will assist our pastors with members' needs in **January**. 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, Dean Sieck** ([deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

**Thank you, all office volunteers:** Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

**Thank you,** all Stream Team Volunteers! Anyone interested in helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas at [kurt@dangereddy.com](mailto:kurt@dangereddy.com).

**The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **February 16 (for the March TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

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