

*Forest Hill Church:
Worship Service*

January 29, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

https://youtu.be/U_m9VGPfYGQ

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

John Bell

“Bless the Lord”
Chancel Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us walk in God’s ways. **Let us listen for God’s word.**
We will dwell here in God’s tent. **We will sing God’s praises.**
Let us worship the living God!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 409**

“God Is Here!”
(Stanzas 1 and 4)

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, you call us to be the church. You call us to proclaim the gospel, but we too often remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled with one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near.

Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir and Voices in Bronze

"You are the Salt and Light"

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

Go to the world and give it flavor. Go with the light and let it shine.

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

But what good is the salt if it loses its flavor? What good is the light until it shines.

One tiny bit, just a bit of salt can change all the flavor and take the bitterness away.

A tiny point of light can pierce thro' the darkness to shine, to shine with a guiding ray.

Go, live as the salt, the salt of the earth. Go, live as the light, the light of the world.

You are the salt, so share all the flavor. You are the light, so let it shine.

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world, so let it shine.

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN NO. 468**

"In My Life"

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Utter Foolishness"

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

Louis J.F. Herold

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 744**

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

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 Hughes

"Brightest and Best"

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian's 11th Annual Black History Month Celebration

The Black History Education Committee of Forest Hill Church is happy to announce our 2023 theme: *Reparations vs. Jubilee*. During the month of February, the Black History Education Committee will lead the church in exploring this theme through a variety of interactive, open-to-the-public weekly activities.

Forest Hill Presbyterian welcomes the opportunity to learn grow and fellowship with our neighbors in Cleveland Heights and beyond.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

February 5 at 2:00 PM: Soul Food Truck & a Movie

Join us for a meal and a movie (The Woman King) at 3031 Monticello Blvd. Starting at 2:00 PM, various Black-owned food trucks will be onsite serving up soul food, vegan delights, and delicious desserts for purchase. After buying your meal, head inside to join us in a movie screening.

February 12 at 2:00 PM: Experience Reverend Dr. Otis Moss Jr.'s Interactive Biography

Join us in visiting the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage to see this groundbreaking AI generated interactive biography. Children and adults alike are sure to enjoy this unique exhibit. Join us at 3031 Monticello for carpooling at 1:30 PM or meet us at 2929 Richmond Rd. at 2:00 PM for the tour. Tickets start at just \$10. Sliding scale available. Lunches are not provided.

February 19 (immediately following worship): Teach In and Talk on Reparations vs. Jubilee

What are the differences between reparations and Jubilee? This is the grounding question we will explore at our teach-in and talk. Black-owned Food Trucks will be available onsite, so grab a plate and settle in for a robust discussion!

February 25 at 6:30 PM: Honoring Mother Willie Mae Wright

The Wright Family Singers and Elégie will split the bill to offer a gospel concert on Saturday February 25th at 6:30 PM. FREE and open to the public.

This event comes with an extra layer of emotion for The Wright Family Singers, as it will be the first family concert since the passing of the family matriarch, Mother Willie-Mae Wright. Mother Wright was the original singer of the family and founded The Wright Family Singers with her 8 children in 1978. 3 of her children Bridgett, Deborah and Eric (The group's original accompanist) preceded her in death, yet the group continues on with her remaining living children and their children.

February 26 at 4:00 PM: Live Ancestral Listening

Join us for a special jazz concert at 4 PM which will feature local jazz musicians Robin Blake, Joshua Stone, Malika Turner, Kenesha Terrell and many others. This event will be followed by an open forum discussion facilitated by a special guest speaker, giving both participants and patrons the chance to discuss and perform the music. FREE and open to the public.



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:

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).

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.

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.

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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