

Forest Hill Church: Worship Service

February 26, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4KOWctNUhs>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*Our going to church on Sunday is like placing one's ear
to another's chest to hear the unquenchable murmur of the human heart.*

~ Richard Wright

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Traditional

"Steal Away"
Chancel Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice! **God's love meets us here!**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!**

***HYMN NO. 472**

"Kum ba Yah"

Renewing Our Relationship with God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the Good News: through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, amen! In all I say and I do: Hallelujah, amen!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Catherine McKenzie Allen

**Catherine McKenzie Allen, with joy and thanksgiving,
we welcome you into the body of Christ and into the life of his church at Forest Hill!**

Children will leave for Sunday School with their adult leaders following the baptism.

“God Has Work for Us to Do”

Chancel Choir

'Til all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled;
till no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled:

[Chorus] God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done,
and all things are made new, God has work for us, work for us to do!

'Til age and race and gender no longer separate;
til pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate **[Chorus]**

In tenement and mansion, in factory, farm, and mill,
In board room and in billiard hall, inwards where time stands still.

In classroom, church, and office, in shops or on the street, in ev'ry place where people thrive, or starve, or hide or
meet. God has work for us.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale, trembling hands, by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands.
By praying through our doing and singing though we fear, by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near:

[Chorus]

*Opening Our Hearts to God's Word***THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)****Romans 5:12-19**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Speaking and Listening”

***HYMN NO. 775**

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

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

arr. Harry Burleigh

“Go Down Moses”
Caleb Wright, soloist

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 792

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

Going Forth to Live as God's People

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Samuel Coleridge- Taylor

“Drake's Drum”

Historical Notes on the Hymns (From the Glory to God hymnal)

“Kum ba Yah” - The African American spiritual, first recorded in the 1920s, seemed to have originated somewhere in the southern United States. It enjoyed popularity during the folk revival of the 1960's and became a standard campfire song, eventually traveling throughout the world.

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” - The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of those enslaved who were involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

“There is a Balm in Gilead” - This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, “Is there no balm in Gilead?” (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthy remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal “the sin-sick soul.”

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

FINAL EVENT:

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.

LOOK AHEAD March 2023 Events

Create In Me A New Heart Lent 2023

There is so much noise in the world, so many competing voices and so much division. How we long for the space and time to rest in the quiet, to move our bodies in gentle ways, to meditate on a passage from scripture, to join with others in a holy space.

This Lenten Season, Ying and I invite you to join us for a season of restoration and repair of our inner being.

Wednesday, March 1, 15 and 29 7:00 p.m. Join us in the Chapel for 30 minutes, or so, of contemplative worship, gentle bodily movement, scripture and song as we create space for God's spirit to clear and clean as we seek a new heart for the living of these days.

A light supper will be served (Deanne Lentz and Morag Keefe will be providing the meals) before each of these gatherings at 6:00 p.m. as we celebrate the sacramental gift of breaking bread together.

All are welcome to join us when you can. In order to have enough food we would appreciate that you register here <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/c82a0c>. But know that there will be a place for you at the table.

~John and Ying

Music She Wrote, March 4 from 4-6 PM Forest Hill Church Presbyterian

Tea reception and discussion at 4PM, Fellowship Hall with Jessica Kelley and the Concert at 5 PM in the Sanctuary

We are excited to kick off Women's History Month with a concert celebrating the works of female composers from the baroque era. Historically-informed musicians, Guillermo Salas-Suárez (violin) and Andréa Walker (soprano), will present a dazzling performance of musical pieces with Qin-Ying Tan on the organ and harpsichord. In addition, our youth group will present recitations of poetry composed by female writers through the ages during the performance.





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:

Doris Allen (sister Diane Wilson passed away), Cooper Andrews, Kiva Bohanon, Mark Davidson, Rita Grube, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Zelma Sharp (mom passed away), Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Susan Way 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 Groups will assist our pastors with members' needs. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **head of the Deacons, 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 **March 16 (for the April 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