

# *Forest Hill Church: Outdoor Worship Service*

*June 25, 2023 ~ 10:00 am*

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2UmPLMVnmE>

*\*Please stand if able*

## *Centering Words*

*Come into God's presence and relinquish all fear.  
Let go of life as you know it and discover life everlasting.*

## *Greeting Our God with Joy*

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

Rev. Sally Wile

Incline your ear, O God. Hear the praises of your people. **Gladden the hearts of your servants, as we lift up our souls to you.**

For you, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love. **In the day of trouble, we call on you, knowing you will answer.**

Your people everywhere glorify your name. **For you are slow to anger and abound in steadfast love. Turn to us and be gracious.**

Let us worship God.

### **\*HYMN NO. 14**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

- 1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*
- 2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*
- 4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*
- 5. For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for the great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and Loving God, lead us in ways that lead to life. Free us to love as completely as you love. Help us to find our worth, not by lifting ourselves above others, but by accepting that we belong to you. May our fulfillment be found, not in what we hold onto, but in what we freely give in your name. Free us, dear God, to live without fear, following wherever your Spirit leads. In the spirit of Christ's compassion, we pray. Amen.

## **TIME OF SILENCE**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The one who frees us from selfishness fills us with God's selfless love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

# Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

## ANTHEM

Matt Maher

“Lord, I Need You”  
Em Ezell and Jack Lentz, soloists  
Kurt Haas, guitar

## Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

### THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Selected verses from:  
Jeremiah 20:7-13  
Psalm 69: 7-10, 16-18  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

## After the readings

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN NO. 467

“Give Us Light”

1. *Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.*
2. *Give us life; give us life; give us life, O Lord.*
3. *Give us peace; give us peace; give us peace, O Lord.*
4. *Save us now; save us now; save us now, O Lord.*
5. *Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.*

## SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Pep Talk”

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sally Wile

**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

Stuart K. Hine/ Mary McDonald

“Then Sings My Soul”  
Em Ezell, soloist

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## *Going Forth to Live as God's People*

### **\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 468**

**"In My Life"**

- 1. In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today.**
- 2. In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In our song, Lord, be glorified today.**
- 3. In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In your church, Lord, be glorified today.**
- 4. In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In your world, Lord, be glorified today.**

### **\*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**

**Sondra Corbett-Wood**

**"I Worship You, Almighty God"**

**3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
Office: 216-321-2660**

**Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257**

**Email: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org)      Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)**

**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**

## Traits of the Beloved Community, a Working Document

1. Recognizes and honors the image of God in every human being.
2. Recognizes and affirms, not eradicates differences
3. Takes the steps necessary to recognize and honor all voices, thereby fostering trust and embracing one another
4. Acknowledges limitations, ambiguity, lack of knowledge or understanding; listen and seek to learn
5. Speaks the truth in love, resolving conflicts peacefully and compassionately, without physical or verbal violence
6. Actively commits to justice through removing unjust systems without destroying people.
7. Encourages and embraces artistic expressions of faith from diverse perspectives.
8. Achieves friendship and understanding through negotiation, compromise or consensus, considering each circumstance to discern which will be most helpful.
9. Blends faith and action to generate a commitment to defeating injustice (not forgetting that injustice can also be found within the Church).
10. Promotes human rights and creates a just society by meeting the needs of everyone in the community, sharing power and acknowledging the network of mutuality among all humans.
11. Fosters dynamic and active spirituality through reliance on Scripture, prayer and corporate worship, recognizing God as dynamic and active in the world.



### **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:**

Anthony Bland, Bob and Dianne Doyle, Deborah Howard, Rayba Johnson, the family of Robert Kellermeyer, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Doreen Underwood, Anne Way, Susan Way, Sharon Wiggins and Warren Young.

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

Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire 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](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

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

**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 **July 13 (for the August TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).