

*Forest Hill Church:
Worship Service*

April 16, 2023 ~ 11:00 am

You may also join worship online using this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gwq1Wucl_jE

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

*The Lord is risen! Alleluia!
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Arr. John Bell

“Halle, halle halle (Caribbean Islands)”
Chancel Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice!**
Do not fear, be at peace, for Christ is alive! **In this place we find hope and joy.**
Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Let us worship the one who brings new life.**

***HYMN NO. 233**

“The Day of Resurrection!”

Renewing Our Relationship with God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, walking in the way, truth and life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TIME OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of all grace, who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ, will restore, support and strengthen us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

HYMN NO. 586

“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

Mark Miller

“Love Brought Me Back”

Chancel Choir

Fear and hatred had done their very worst, despair had had its day.

Sorrow and sadness were hanging in the air, the gloom would not go away.

But early Sunday morning the women saw the Lord, and there they heard him say,

[chorus] “I’m back! Hallelujah, I’m back! Don’t you know that death could not hold me, love is what owns me!

Just here to tell ya, God’s got one last word, I’m back!

Hallelujah, I’m back! Don’t you know that death could not hold me, love is what owns me!

Just here to tell ya, God’s got one last word and that’s love, love, love, love, love,

Love brought me back!

Does your life feel empty, things aren’t going right, the storm won’t seem to clear?

There is hope, forgiveness, and a bright new day, God’s love will cast out all fear!

Experience the pow’r of the resurrected Christ, and you will hear him say,

[chorus]

Love brought me back! Love! Love! Love! Love brought me back!

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

John 20:19-31

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 623

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Finding Peace”

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

Stuart Townend

“How Deep the Father's Love For Us”
Em Ezell, solo

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.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 852

“When the Lord Redeems the Very Least”

*BENEDICTION

“Sanctuary”

POSTLUDE

John Bennett

“Voluntary”



**Join the coffee and discussion with Kim Wagner
on April 28 at 10 AM in South Hall!**

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner serves as the Assistant Professor of Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. She received a B.S. in Secondary Life Science Education from Miami University (OH), an M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and her Ph.D. from the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. Though she has served among the Lutherans and was educated among United Methodists, Dr. Wagner is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Previous experience on the pastoral staff of a PCUSA congregation in Virginia helps fuel and inform her present scholarship and teaching. She is passionate about supporting students' formation and helping clergy and communities navigate the realities of an ever-changing world and church. Her current writing and work focus on preaching and ministry in the midst and wake of trauma, particularly thinking about collective trauma, the role of the preacher, and the resources of our Scriptures and faith to respond to these moments. Dr. Wagner's book, Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma (Westminster John Knox Press, 2023), offers guidance for preaching in the aftermath of communal trauma, including mass violence, natural disasters, and public health crises.

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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**



What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

The invitation, open to any church or mid council, has three goals:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples, actively engaged with their community as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



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, Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, 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, 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.

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **May 11 (for the June TOWER) at 8:00 am.** Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.