

SERMON

“The Struggle Is rael”

Elder Ajah Hales

***HYMN**

“Simple Gifts”
(verses 2 and 3)

2. 'Tis the gift to be gentle,
 'Tis the gift to be fair
 'Tis the gift to wake
and breathe the morning air,
 To walk every day
in the path that we choose
 'Tis the gift we pray
we may never, never lose.

Refrain: When true simplicity is gained, to bow or to bend we
shant be ashamed. To turn, turn will be our delight, until turning,
turning we come round right.

3. 'Tis the gift to be knowing,
 'Tis the gift to be kind
 'Tis the gift to wait
and hear another's mind,
And when we speak our feelings
it may come out true
 'Tis a gift for me,
and a gift for you. (Refrain)

***BENEDICTION AND CHARGE**

Lady wisdom, thank you for simple gifts and inconvenient
blessings. As we go forth into our week, let us remember:
It's okay to be afraid,

because you are here to comfort us.

It's okay to fail forward,

because you will always be there to help us up.

It's okay to struggle with you AND it's fine to just receive.

**You designed us to be blessings. Grow our
faith. Help us believe.**

As we go forth to be your light, continue to read us and
refine us so we may, may better know ourselves and
serve others.

Be our safe space and make us safe spaces.

Be our sanctuary and let each of us be one too.

***MUSICAL RESPONSE**

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy,
tried and true; With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

DEPARTING MUSIC “Gospel Blues Improv.” Fergus Connelly

Special thanks to Nicole Lawrence for her help in worship today.

Prayer Requests: To request prayers for a personal concern,
please email the church office (office@fhcpresb.org).

Prayers are requested this week for: Melanie Alban, Elsie
Boyd, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Jeannine Gury, Jenny
Himmelman, Deborah Howard, Chuck and Jane Ishler, Kemp
Jaycox, Jessica Owusu, Roz Peters, Ron Register, Pat Seeders,
Serena Shung, Joyce Senger, Kate Tzefronis, Eileen Vizcaino,
and Ann Williams.

**Please remember these homebound members in your
prayers:** Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Grace Uhle and Warren
Young.

Care Groups will assist our pastor 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.

The Deacon Card Ministry, with cards for all occasions, is
available in Fellowship Hall most Sundays after worship. Deacon
Nathaniel Martin will be happy to help you pick a card for
someone who needs to hear from you and our church. Brighten
someone's day with a reminder of our care.

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

Thank you, Stream Team Volunteers! Anyone interested in
helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas
at kurt@dangereddy.com.

Please remember to leave your name tag in the appropriate
column on the magnetic board outside Fellowship Hall before you
leave today. You want it to be waiting for you next week!

3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
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Custodian on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: churchadmin@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

The Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee, Transitional Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music
The Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming



****Please stand in body and/or spirit.***

Childcare is provided for children ages birth to 4 years from 10:45 am – 12:15 pm in Rooms 201/203. Children ages 5+ join their families for the opening moments of worship. Following the Passing of the Peace and Children's Welcome, children leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

CENTERING WORDS
“Liturgy is the subversive declaration of the coming reign of God.”
-Safiyah Fosua

“I'm told God loves me and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul. Did I make a mistake?”- Mother Teresa

CENTERING MUSIC “Brazilian Rhythms”
FHC Percussion Ensemble
Dylan Moffit, Director

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT “Haleluya! Pelo Tso Rona” South African
Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN NO. 472** “Kum ba Yah”
(verses 2 and 4)

CALL TO CONFESSION Nicole Lawrence

Mother God forgive us when we lie
to you, our neighbors and especially ourselves.
watch over us now—not just when we die.
**keep us safe and uncomfortable, spiritually fed
but hungry for justice, our light on display, not
on the shelf.**
long is our struggle, deep is our doubt
**we trust you, but we want to try it our way. We
heard you, we just don't want to do what you
say. If we can't see a way we say it can't be
done. We forget about Jesus, our brother, your
son.**
help us lean on you and let you work it out.
**God, we need your help to clean up our messes. Train
us to trust you, not our own best guesses. May we
always turn to you in our struggles and stresses.
We've sinned. We're unworthy, but we ask you to
bless us.**

SILENCE

KYRIE (HYMN NO. 578) “O Lord, Have Mercy”
(in Greek, v. 1 soloist, vv. 1-2 all)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
**Let us struggle with God and never with men. In
Christ we're forgiven—forever. Amen.**

***RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 588)** “Alleluia”

Leader

All

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia! Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia!

Leader

All

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia! Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia!

Leader

All

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia! Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia!

Leader

All

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia! Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia!

CHILDREN’S BLESSING AND RELEASE
God made a special blessing, wrapped it up in window
dressing, sent it to your mom and dad as the best present
they ever had. God is very proud of the miracle of you.
You're here to change the world. Trust God to help you
see it through. In Jesus' name, amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/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.*

MUSIC “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” arr. Trenney
Chancel Choir
Jessica Martin, harp

Ushers will collect prayer requests.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR
(Celtic version by John Phillip Newell)
Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring, may
love rise again in us today with food for every table,
shelter for every family and reverence for every life.

Forgive us our failings in love and free us from all
falseness, that the light of our souls may shine and
the strength of our spirits endure, for earth and all its
people, this day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

By texting: 216-400-5300
You may give online with PayPal, credit or debit card:
www.fhcpresb.org
Or you may also mail a check to the church office

OFFERTORY “Clair de Lune” Claude Debussy
Jessica Martin, harp

***DOXOLOGY**
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ,
all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise
Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 32:6-13; 24–30
(page 26)

***HYMN NO. 449 (AAHH)** “Have Thine Own Way, Lord”
(verses 1 and 3)

1.

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

3.

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Wounded and weary,
Help me, I pray.
Power, all power,
Surely is Thine,
Touch me and heal me,
Savior divine.