

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the precious gift of communion, in which we have received your true presence, the very love of Christ poured out for us. As we have partaken in this sacred meal, we have been reminded of the depth of your love and your call to love one another.

May we love with patience and kindness, free from envy or pride. Teach us to love selflessly, not seeking our own gain, but always seeking the well-being of others. Let your love guide us in all we do, that we may bear with one another, believe in each other, and hope for the good of all your creation.

As we leave this holy table, may the love we have received from Christ empower us to live out that love in our daily lives. May it never fail in us, but continue to grow, even when faced with hardship or challenge. And, through the strength of your love, may we continue to strive for a world where faith, hope, and love abound. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 741

"Guide My Feet"
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 6)

"Guide My Feet" is a song from the Reconstruction Era.

The theme of encouragement to those escaping captivity and running towards freedom is one that may be embraced by all.

*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

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

POSTLUDE

"I've Got Peace like a River"

The promise of "peace like a river" is mentioned in Isaiah as a blessing that comes from doing God's will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians' baptismal identity.

Special thanks to John Dugard for his help in leading 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: Elsie Boyd, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney, Cate Monaghan, and Mark Wedell.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Kemp Jaycox, Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Pat Musick, Roz Peters, 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.

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

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

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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, PRESBYTERIAN

February 2, 2025 – 11:00AM

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6ta9LaT9RI>

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

CENTERING WORDS

“Yes, I am personally the victim of deferred dreams, of blasted hopes, but in spite of that I close today by saying I still have a dream, because, you know, you can’t give up in life. If you lose hope, somehow you lose that vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you to go on in spite of all. And so today I still have a dream.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Christmas Sermon” (1967)

PRELUDE

“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands”

“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands” is a traditional African American spiritual and became an international hit in 1957 after a recording by English singer, Laurie London.

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Donnie Harper

“Praise Him”
Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 71) John Dugard

In you, Holy One, we have taken refuge; do not put us to shame.

Deliver us and save us, for you are righteous – you and none other.

Be our rock and our fortress, our hope and our trust.

Be our life, our love, and our joy!

*HYMN NO. 649 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (vv. 1-3 and Amen)

Written by John Newton in 1773. Newton, a one-time slave trader, became an abolitionist. In the black church of the 19th century, this congregational singing of “Amazing Grace” was used as a praise and worship moment or a war cry against the tyranny of the outside world. At the last verse, sing the tune to the mantra “Amen” in unison or harmony.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Like lost sheep, loving God, we have each gone our own way. We have tried to find meaning and fulfillment for our lives apart from you, and we succeed only for a time. And yet we persist, determined to save ourselves. Remind us, as we offer ourselves fully and honestly to you, that you alone are our salvation. As we acknowledge our sins, we find hope and peace in you.

SILENCE

KYRIE (Hymn No. 600)

Amen, amen, amen

“Amen”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH! (Hymn No. 591)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Rollo Dilworth

“Freedom Train”

In the African American vocal tradition, the image of a train has often been employed as a symbol to represent freedom. The slaves would often make references to “trains”—a network of escape routes—as they labored in the field or as they participated in secret gatherings. The most popular spiritual to use the train metaphor is “De Gospel Train.”

Children are invited to leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

Ushers will collect prayer requests.

LIVING WORD

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (page 609)
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (page 944)

*HYMN NO. 693

“Though I May Speak”
(vv. 1-2)

*LIVING WORD

Luke 4:21-30 (page 835)

Congregation remains standing.

After the reading

This is the Good News of Jesus the Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN NO. 693

“Though I May Speak”
(v. 3)

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee
“Home Truths”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Loving Parent, 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

CALL TO GIVING

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

arr. Joel Raney

“I'll Fly Away”
Janice Alexander, soprano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, you have filled our hearts with hope and a deep longing for justice. May our gifts embody our hearts’ desire and bring your hope to those who need it most. For your love’s sake we ask this. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION