

OFFERTORY

“Woman in the Night”
Andréa Walker, soprano

Wren/Fedak

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN NO. 324**

“For All The Faithful Women”

***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

“Improvisation”

Ira B. Wilson



*We thank Elder Ajah Hales and Elder Lia Clement
for contributing to worship service this morning.*

*The church office will be closed on Monday,
September 2 due to the holiday.*

A memorial service for Graham Peters will be held at the church
on Saturday, September 7, at 11:00 am.

*We are so glad to have Andréa Walker lead us in worship
today! Mexican-American soprano Andréa Walker is a
passionate interpreter of Baroque music and vocal chamber
music. She can be heard performing across the country with
groups like GRAMMY® Award-winning orchestra Apollo’s Fire,
Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, Les Délices, and The Thirteen. Ms.
Walker is pursuing a Doctorate in historical performance practice
at Case Western Reserve University. Prior to her time in
Cleveland, she graduated with a Master’s in vocal performance
from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music where she specialized in
early music, oratorio, and art song. She is thrilled to be making
her debut with Pegasus Early Music, NYS Baroque, and Seraphic
Fire in the 2024-2025 season.*

*Andréa will be performing at Forest Hill Church with CLE
Concierto on September 27th, 7:30PM for the first concert of the
season at The Resonance Project. Tickets for the concert can be
accessed on CLEConcierto.com.*

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

Prayers are requested this week for: Deborah Howard, Gate
Monaghan, Twanda Patterson, the family of Graham Peters and
Karen & Dan Yourd.

**Please remember these homebound members in your
prayers:** Kemp Jaycox, Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Pat
Musick, Roz Peters, Beverly Thomas, 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, Susan Kay Dunlap
(susandnlp@gmail.com or 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@dangerreddy.com.

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

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Email: churchadmin@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children’s Ministry
Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music



FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

September 1, 2024 – 10:00AM



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WmwipB3ONA>

**Please stand if able*

Centering Words

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own. --Audre Lorde

PRELUDE

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Doris Akers

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Lia Clement

Eternal one, you give us your best.

Even when we show you our worst.

You made us in your image.

With flesh, bones, and sinew.

You gave us bodies built for praise.

You breathed into us.

You gave us your spirit.

You incarnated.

To live and die for us.

You transcended death.

You transfigured so we could be transformed.

We praise you,

With our bodies.

We praise you,

With our spirits.

In life and in death we are yours.

Come, let us worship the living God!

*HYMN NO. 700

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Lia Clement

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we're sorry for all the ways we have failed you, disappointed you, and caused you pain.

We're sorry for all the ways we take you for granted, and all the times we have failed to give credit where it was due.

We're sorry for layering our binary preference over your non-binary presence.

- Black and white
- Male and female
- Christian and worldly
- Oppressed and oppressor
- Good and evil

We take comfort in our constructed identities instead of embracing the identity you gave us: children.

We're sorry for valuing independence more than interdependence,

- for all the ways we try to be our own Lord and Savior,
- for thinking we know what's best for ourselves and others,
- for treating you like a last resort instead of a first responder.

You are a merciful God and a good parent. We ask your forgiveness for these things as well as our secret wrongdoings, which we confess to now, in your presence.

SILENCE

KYRIE (Hymn No. 576)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Courtesy of Rev. M Jade Kaiser, Enfleshed

The Sacred embraces us in our multiplicity.

In our desires, our longings, our many practices of kinship and community. Our love is declared holy - platonic and erotic, queer and collective. As we each wish to know and be known - for who we've been, who we are, and who we are becoming, we honor the simple fact that identities change, flow, transition. We delight in authentic self-expression, quickly shifting, or slowly emerging, strange or familiar. We remember the incarnation is an eternally unfolding event. We look and feel and listen all around us. **Indeed, God is here.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GLORIA (Hymn No. 582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
(sing twice)*

ANTHEM

“How Great Thou Art”
Andréa Walker, Soprano

Arr. Larson

Ushers will collect prayer requests.

LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Elder Lia Clement

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 (Page 544)

Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and

bronze kettles.) So, the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

After the reading

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

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN NO. 188

“Jesus Loves Me!” (A capella)

Swahili text for chorus: **Ye•su mwo•ko•zi, a•na•ni•pen•da, kwe•li hu•pen•da, mun•gu a•me•se•ma**

SERMON

“Let's Talk About Sex”

Elder Ajah Hales

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our parent, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our shortcomings, as we forgive the shortcomings of others. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the KINGdom, with shared power, for your incandescent glory, forever. 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.

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.