

**A TIME FOR JOY:  
THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION  
OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC**



**FEATURING ALEXANDER WRIGHT & THE PROBLEMATICS  
AND SPECIAL GUEST MALIKA TURNER**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25TH 6:30 PM  
FOREST HILL CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN  
3031 MONTICELLO BLVD.  
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH  
44118**

**Lent 2024  
Journey to Jerusalem  
Wilderness, Temptation and Call**

As we continue our journey of faith, we will go through the wilderness and be tempted to lose sight of God's presence. Yet, as we continue, we will find a way, a truth and a life that gives glory to God and reveal to us our own calling and our belovedness as children of God.

Each Sunday we will explore the mystery of God's grace and be grounded in our identities as siblings of Jesus Christ. There will also be opportunities midweek throughout Lent to deepen our faith. Join us for the journey to Jerusalem.

**Wednesday, March 6 and March 20  
Supper and Contemplative Worship  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Life is busy with many distractions. Join us for a simple meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a contemplative service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. Together we will pause from the journey and pray together, sing together, be in silence together, and seek God's presence together.

**Sunday, March 24  
Wilderness Retreat  
1-4pm in the Chapel**

Led by Sally Wile and Mary Ann Breisch. Through Scriptural stories, poetry, music and visual art, we will explore how the journey to Jerusalem inevitably finds us in the wilderness. We will reflect on how there, in the barrenness, God is revealed and we are transformed.

**Thursday, March 28  
Maundy Thursday  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Supper at 6:00 followed by a service of worship to prepare us for the crucifixion of Jesus. Passages from the gospels remind us of the final meal with his disciples, his agony in the garden, his trials before he offers himself to the cross. After each reading the lights are dimmed until the Christ Candle is removed from the sanctuary.

**Friday, March 29  
Good Friday Community Service @ St. Pauls Episcopal  
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.**

We join other Christians in our community at St. Pauls for a service of remembrance. Brief homilies are offered on the "7 last words of Christ." The choir of St. Pauls will sing an oratory, prayers will be offered and hymns will be sung. You may come and go as your schedule permits.

Thanks to Jennifer Blakeney, Sally Wile, Mary Ann Breisch, QinYing Tan, Leslie Clement and Valeria Stutz for their vision and spirit leadership.



**FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN  
FEBRUARY 25, 2024 – 11:00AM**



**Harmonia Rosales, 'The Crucifixion,' Oil on Canvas, Courtesy Instagram**

You may also join worship online using this link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9hAj1X\\_UH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9hAj1X_UH8)



## CENTERING WORDS

*As I reflect down the vistas of the past,  
as I think about all the problems and all the experiences I have had;  
without a faith in God, a faith in prayer, and a disposition of loyalty to God,  
I don't know what I would have done.*  
C.L. Franklin "Hannah, The Ideal Mother" 1958

## PRELUDE

Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal  
"I'll Be Seeing You"  
The Problematics

## WELCOME

## CHORAL INTROIT

Donnie Harper  
"Praise Him"  
Chancel Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

You who love the Lord, praise God! **We, who are the children of God will glorify God in praise.** For God has done wonderful things! **Indeed, the whole earth bows down for all things belong to the Lord.** With God all things are possible. **We stand in awe before the Lord this day.** Come let us worship and bow down. Magnify the Lord's name with me. **AMEN! Let us worship the living and loving God!**

## \*OPENING HYMN NO. 649

"Amazing Grace"

*Written by John Newton in 1773. Newton, a one-time slave trader, became an abolitionist and clergyman. Yes, God's amazing grace can save us from all personal, cultural and systemic sin. In the black church of the 19th century, this congregational singing of "Amazing Grace" was used as a praise & worship moment or a war cry against the tyranny of the outside world. Ministers would use this to modulate the spirit.*

*First 2 Verses, Sung Solo-At third verse please rise to your feet and sing the tune to the mantra "praise god" in unison or harmony as directed, feel free to express your zeal for worship through this traditional African-American setting of the classic hymn.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord God, we confess, that we have fallen short of what you expect of us in our daily lives. In thought, word and deed we are not who you would have us be. We ask for your forgiveness and we will seek to do better. As we broaden our perspective, we confess our complicity in the sins of the world. We are part of systems and structures that press others down. Some of us have positions of privilege that we think we deserve. It cannot be your will or your way for children to starve, for people to live in fear, and for the resources of our world to be hoarded. It cannot be the way of Jesus to care more about wealth than the welfare of others. Forgive us. Only by your amazing grace can we move towards your heavenly justice and joy.**

## A TIME OF REFLECTION AND SILENCE

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Yes! Amazing grace. **Forgiven again. Thank you! Teach our hearts to love and serve you by loving and serving others. Each day may we step into your light and grow in our capacity to follow Jesus.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## HYMN NO. 582

I Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

## CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

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

## ANTHEM

Arr. Howard Helvey

"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"  
Chancel Choir  
The Problematics

## THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Jeremiah 29:1-7 (page 638)

## After the readings

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN NO. 699

"Fill My Cup"

*Isaiah Jones Jr. an African-American Presbyterian pastor wrote the text and music for this hymn in 1969.*

## SERMON

Keisha Krumm  
Executive Director of  
Greater Cleveland Congregations

"No Power = No Justice"

## 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/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](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

Or you may also mail a check to the church office.

Make Your Commitment (Pledge) For 2024 at [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

## OFFERTORY

Gregory Porter  
"Take Me to the Alley"  
Alexander Wright and The Problematics

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## \*HYMN NO. 384

"Soon and Very Soon"

*This spirited gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4. Written by Andrae Crouch in 1976.*

## \*BENEDICTION

## HYMN NO. 600

"Amen"

## POSTLUDE

Duke Ellington  
"Come Sunday"  
Alexander Wright and The Problematics

*We thank Lia Clement for serving as Lay Leader this morning.*

Thank you to Alexander Wright and The Problematics for joining us in today's service!  
Alexander Wright, vocals  
Sterling Cozza, keyboards  
Griffin Fink, bass  
Griffin Ross, saxophone

**Keisha Krumm** joined Greater Cleveland Congregations, a nonpartisan community power organization that gives voice and action to social justice issues in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in November 2019. Keisha came to Greater Cleveland Congregations from its sister organization, Milwaukee-based Common Ground, where she served as Lead Organizer for eight and a half years. Keisha brings her talent and experience to an organization that has seen a host of successes in agitating for social change in health equity, criminal justice reform, firearms safety, and voter engagement in Cuyahoga County since 2011. Her leadership has been especially critical during a time of unprecedented stress to communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before working at Common Ground, Keisha worked for ten years as an organizer in Los Angeles and the Seattle-Tacoma region. She has a master's degree from the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Christian Community Development. She is a devoted wife and mother who has committed her life to justice-seeking.

