

**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 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. We need volunteers to bring soup, bread, and salad for about 30 people. **You may use this link:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/c82a0c21>.

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

Lead 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. **You may use this link:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/4fd15b>.

**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. **You may use this link:** <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/25a55e1595>

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

We join other Christians in our community at St. Paul's for a service of remembrance. Brief homilies are offered on the "7 last words of Christ." The choir of St. Paul's 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, Qin Ying Tan, Leslie Clement and Valeria Stutz for their vision and spirit of leadership.

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: Joe Dauer, Mark Davidson, Deborah Howard, Kemp Jaycox, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Ann Williams, Warren Young and Karen & Dan Yourd.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Roz and Graham Peters.

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, Susan Kay Dunlap** (susandnlp@gmail.com or deacons@fhcpresb.org).

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

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 **April 18, 2024 (for the May TOWER) at 8:00 am.** Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

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

Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: churchadmin@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music



Cover Image: Mary Ann Breisch's paraments photo taken by Jean Reinhold

FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

MARCH 17, 2024 – 11:00AM



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

CENTERING WORDS

*“Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days”
Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930*

PRELUDE

“Reverie”

Ira B. Wilson

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Arr. Karen Thompson

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

Chancel Choir
Voices in Bronze
Little Crescendos
Julie Minder, Director

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **maker of heaven and earth**. This is the day that the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it**. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God’s presence with singing!** Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN NO. 307

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (From Psalm 51:1-12)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you alone, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Purge us with hyssop and we shall be clean; wash us and we will be purer than snow. Let us hear joy and gladness. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

A TIME OF SILENCE

KYRIE (Hymn No. 576)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen. Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN NO. 583

“Gloria”

*All sing first time. On second time of the singing, we will sing this piece in canon!
Low voices will start, followed by high voices two measures later.
Young voices will sing two measures after high voices begin.*

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Marina Grant

CHILDREN’S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

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

ANTHEM

“Grace”

Arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir
Jack Lentz, tenor

LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Matthew 4:1-11 (page 785)

After the readings

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

HYMN NO. 175

“Seek Ye First”

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Face Off in the Desert: The Temptation of Power”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father Mother, 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

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

Make Your Commitment (Pledge) For 2024 at www.fhcpresb.org

OFFERTORY

John Rutter

“Thy Perfect Love”
Chancel Choir
Cheryl Murray, soloist

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN NO. 744

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

BLESSING AND SENDING

*BENEDICTION HYMN NO. 701

“Sanctuary”

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary pure and holy tried and true,
with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living Sanctuary for you.*

POSTLUDE

“Fantasy in A minor”

J.S. Bach

We thank Karen Loughridge for serving as Lay Leader this morning.

Place your Easter Lily orders by March 23. You may use this link for orders: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/641db77011797588>.

Do you want to contribute flowers for Sunday worship?

If so, you may use this link:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/641db770112776329>