

Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Easter Sunday
April 1, 2018 10 am

*“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the
Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”*
Pope John Paul II

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.
Our worship leader is **Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher**.

Our music is led by music director **Alex Good**
and the **FHUC Choir**.

Our greeters this morning are **Joe Rideout** and **Lorna McKnight**
and our tellers are **Mary Grant** and **Jean Fisher**.

*At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on
ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqey land.*

*Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for people to gather, regardless
of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status, sexual
orientation, and gender identity.*

Gathering

At the **, please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude

**Introit: *(Sung Together twice)*

MV2

**Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
Come now and worship the Lord.**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: Come to the Living Stone,
cast aside as cumbersome,
rejected for stubborn insistence on reconstructing the
human family, held in contempt for its conviction about
the sacred unity beneath the dome of Earth,
passed over as insignificant,

All: yet the cornerstone of our life together.

One: Come to the Living Stone,
you who dwell in the household of Christ,
and consider this:

**All: God yearns to build our character,
reconstructs us as we live in community,
raises us up from stones to be children of mercy,
justice, and peace.**

*Daryl Webber, Lowville Nelson United Ministries, Burlington, Ont. The Gathering,
Lent/Easter 2017, page 40. Used with permission.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Prayer

(said by all in unison)

God of the empty tomb, we come into your presence looking for Jesus. We find the Risen Christ and are delighted and transformed. As the stone was rolled away from the tomb on the first Easter morning, may we move any obstacle in our hearts and minds to encountering you in the holy mystery we remember today. Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** VU 155 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Exploring

Children's Time

****Song of Praise:** MV 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines

Words from Our Bible:

Rachel Neville

Luke 1: 39-45

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 VU 836

Mark 16:1-8

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

Reflection

Dramatic reading by Christine Hughes

Mary's Story – by Ralph Milton

Scripture: John 20:1-18

****Hymn of Reflection:** VU 409 Morning Has Broken

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** (*Sung Together*)

MV 18

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

**Prayer After Giving

Communion

Easter Celebration of Communion

Invitation

One: The Resurrection has begun! The Day of Celebration is here!

All: **Alleluia!**

One: We gather at the table to share in the Banquet of Life!

All: **Here we meet all who share with us the hope for a brighter future!**

One: All who wish to follow The Way of Life are welcome to eat and drink at God's table.

All: **Let us eat together.**

Thanksgiving

One: Christ is Risen!

All: **He is Risen Indeed!**

One: We should give thanks!

All: **Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!**

One: As inheritors of that hope we join together in the cries the welcomed him into Jerusalem, the cries of hope for the world:

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Holy One!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Transforming

One: And so, as children of a loving Parent, we pray together the words that Jesus, the Risen Christ, taught his friends

**All: Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Breaking and Pouring

One: Here at this table we break the Bread of Life
On this Day of Celebration we pour the Cup of Promise
These are Gifts from God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God

Bread is passed. Please wait until you are invited to eat.

Juice is passed. Please wait until you are invited to drink.

Closing

**We have eaten, we have drunk, we have embraced the beginning of the new age.
Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the Kingdom.
May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we go out to share the Good News.
Christ is Risen! Death is Defeated! Life Wins! Alleluia and Amen!**

Prayers of Our Community

Where appropriate respond to

Lord, hear our prayer,

With

and in Your love, answer.

****Closing Hymn:** VU 412 This Is the Day

****Sharing the Light**

****Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Do not doubt, but believe.

All: We have experienced the risen Lord.

One: Let us now embrace and celebrate,

All: for this day, we affirm everyone.

One: Let us celebrate the power of holy love,

All: for we are an Easter People. Hallelujah. Amen.

*Don Uhryniw, Emmanuel U.C., Peterborough, Ont. The Gathering, Lent/Easter 2018, page 46.
Used with permission.*

****Choral Amen:** *(Sung Together)*

VU 974

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Repeat

Postlude

*Please join us for coffee and conversation
after worship!*

OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

Minister - **Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher**
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 1-4, and any other time by appointment
email revdeborahfhuc@gmail.com (506) 999-4189 [cell]

Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Book Club	Tuesday April 3 rd “Stalin’s Daughter” by Rosemary Sullivan.
Quilt Group	Mondays 10:00 am -12:00 pm Upper Room
Choir Practice	Sundays 9:30 and 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

Once again we are participating in the Lenten Challenge. Each day of Lent, please go through your possessions and find something to give away. Offer a prayer of thanks for having the privilege of having the use of the item and a blessing for the person who will enjoy it next. When you have gathered everything together take it to the charity of your choice or bring it to the church and we will take it to a charity. We will also pick it up at your home if that is necessary. Thank you for your participation and may you be blessed through this exercise.

Forest Hill Book Club will meet on Tuesday April 3rd at noon in the church parlour. The April book is “Stalin’s Daughter” by Rosemary Sullivan.

Movie Night Friday April 20th 7:00 pm “The Shack” Length: 132 min. mature theme, violence, disturbing content

Fair Trade baking supplies. The following fair trade Camino baking supplies are available from the La Siembra co-operative that supplies the chocolate bars and hot chocolate mix we have been selling since December: Brown sugar (\$9/1kg), chocolate chips, semi-sweet or bittersweet (\$7/225g), shredded coconut (\$6/200g), baking chocolate, unsweetened, bittersweet or semi-sweet (\$9/200g). For each item, 1/2 the purchase price will support outreach activities at Forest Hill. If there is sufficient interest, I will include some of these items in the next order. Please contact John Neville (johnjniv@gmail.com, 455-0576) to express your interest or for further information.

HIKE for HOSPICE will take place on Sunday 6th of May 2018 starting at 1.00p.m. from Killarney Lodge. If you are interested in being a part of the Forest Hill Team please speak to Jennifer for more information or to receive a donor form and to register.

It is sometimes necessary to cancel services due to serious storms. A decision to cancel is made very early in the day. We put cancellation notices on our main telephone number (455-0988) and send an email to congregation members no later than 8:30 am. We also post cancellations on our Facebook page (viewable on the left side of our main web page).

Scripture Readers are needed each week to assist during Worship Services. Please help Patricia Powell (455-8602), who coordinates readers, by indicating on the Reader Chart, which Sundays you would be available to read (√), if needed, and also when you would not be available (x). New readers are most welcome, and names can be added to the Chart.

Ushers/Greeters needed: Please check your schedule to see if you are available for one or more Sundays to help out with set up and greeting our congregation on Sunday mornings. Signup sheet is on the back table. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me. Many thanks. Lorna McKnight

Community Events

333 Air cadet bottle drive, Saturday April 7th. Please bring in your bottles and cans and give them to Charlotte. Pick up can be arranged.

Godly Play Core Training for Storytellers & Doorpersons 2018 Core Training at Nashwaaksis United Church, NB March 24 (storm date April 14), April 21, and May 5. *There are a lot of things you can learn from a book or a lecture, but Godly Play is best learned from the inside out...* Learn about the different kinds of Godly Play stories; tell a story by heart and receive supportive feedback; learn the fundamentals of setting up your own Godly Play space and program. To learn more or register go to www.godlyplaymaritimes.com or reach out to Rev Priscilla geisterferp@hotmail.com

Elvis Gospel Concert. All are invited to hear "The Gospel Side of Elvis" Sunday, April 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Wilmot United Church Sanctuary. Join Mike Bravener as he sings your favourite gospel tunes. Proceeds to support youth ministry. Light refreshments served by UCW. Free will offering.

UCW Bridge Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 3rd, at 12 noon at Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street. Please contact Connie – 472-4744 to reserve your table at a cost of \$40. Hope to see you all there!

The Food Bank continues to thank you for the support you've given us, but also want to ask you to consider giving of your time and skills. We run our organization through many thousands of volunteer hours, and we could always use more. If you are interested in helping us, we have many different ways to help: clothing boutique sales and support, client interaction, warehouse stocking, garden/greenhouse work, as well as any and all use for professional skills in the areas of graphic design, public relations, IT work, nutrition, and many other skills. Please contact us at volunteer@greenerivillage.org if you are able to help.

Minute for Missions / Access to Safe Water

Our gifts for Mission & Service provide water. Water is a gift of God and a fundamental human right. Getting water remains a gruelling chore for many in the Global South, who may spend much of their day hauling water from distant sources to meet their families' needs. Access to water affects every part of daily life. Mission & Service partner People's Action Forum is working hard to address these challenges in rural Zambia.

From 2015 to 2016, People's Action Forum tripled the number of boreholes it was able to drill from 10 to 30. It says, "The list of needy communities is always longer than what can be provided in any given year. Every single additional well that can be provided keeps a community from waiting another whole year on the waiting list." Boreholes are often drilled close to community hubs like schools, making access as broad as possible.

Near the town of Mumbwa Chipso, the primary school has 620 children enrolled. Head teacher Fredah Kafuti talks about the positive difference a borehole drilled by People's Action Forum has made. Before the borehole was drilled, staff and students had a four-kilometre walk to the closest water supply. Now students have ready access to safe drinking water and have been able to establish small vegetable gardens for the school feeding program.

Fredah says, "These are vulnerable children. They live in poverty, which makes the school's feeding program crucial. Education will give them a chance for a better life." The borehole, she added, is helping the school serve that most important purpose.

Mission & Service is making a difference in rural Zambia.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

“Tis a Fearful Thing

‘Tis a fearful thing

to love what death can touch.

A fearful thing

to love, to hope, to dream, to be –

to be,

And oh, to lose.

A thing for fools, this,

And a holy thing,

a holy thing

to love.

For your life has lived in me,

your laugh once lifted me,

your word was gift to me.

To remember this brings painful joy.

‘Tis a human thing, love,

a holy thing, to love

what death has touched.”— Yehuda HaLevi

At this, the celebration of Easter, we remember the difficult days that led to this place. We acknowledge that while the stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty, within our own hearts we continue to carry our own pain, worry, fears and grief. Today you returned to us a piece of glass into which we asked you to symbolically put all the troubles that are weighing you down. We asked you to physically leave them here with us as we spiritually lifted them up to God but we know that these troubles will still weigh on you when you leave this place of worship. Today we take those shards of glass as a reminder to you that you need not carry your troubles by yourself. Friends in Christ, know that you are not alone, not even on the days when it feels as though you are. We are here and we will remember the things with you that bring you painful joy. ‘Tis a fearful thing to love what death can touch, but we will be there with you and together we will find the beauty to be found in these incredible lives God has given us.

Happy Easter