

Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



4th Sunday in Lent
March 11, 2018 10 am

“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count.
It’s the life in your years.” –Unknown

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**.
Our Sunday School Teachers are **Mary Grant**, and **Libby Cassidy**.

Our hospitality host is **May Houston**
and our tellers are **Bob Fisher** and **Lorna McKnight**.

*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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: The rock that causes us to stumble.

All: **May God’s Spirit walk with us.**

****Introit:** (*Sung Together twice*)

MV90

**Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised,
promised to be always near.**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

Into a dark world
A snowdrop comes,
**a blessing of hope and peace
carrying within it a green heart;
symbol of God’s renewing love.**
Come to inhabit our darkness, Lord Christ,
for dark and light are alike to you.
**May nature’s white candles of hope
remind us of your birth
and lighten our journey
through Lent and beyond.**
Amen.

Adapted from the prayer in *Lent and Easter Readings from Iona*; Bell and Bain, Thornliebank,
Glasgow 2001 pg. 15.

Gathering Prayer

(said by all in unison)

Christ of the wilderness and of the crowded street. Whispering in the desert and shouting in the market. Help us to hear you above temptation's promises. Strengthen us to follow you on the highways of your world.

Adapted from the prayer by Helen Boothroyd and Richard Moriarty in *Lent and Easter Readings from Iona*; Bell and Bain, Thornliebank, Glasgow 2001 pg. 27

**Opening Hymn:

VU 585 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

Exploring

Children's Time:

**Song of Praise: VU 266 Amazing Grace

*After the first verse the children and teachers will
leave for Sunday School*

Words from Our Bible:

John Neville

John 3: 14-21

Psalms 107 VU 831 P1&20

Luke 11:37-52

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music: Where the Sweet Waters Flow by Murray McLaughlan
Arr. Brian Cassidy

Reflection Danielle Cole

**Hymn of Reflection: VU 117 Jesus Christ Is Waiting

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

Prayers of Our Community

Where appropriate respond to

God of ...

with

Hear our prayer.

Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Tune of VU 959

Creator in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

VU 921 Ecumenical Version

**Closing Hymn: MV 73 O God, Why Are You Silent?

**Sharing the Light

**Commissioning and Benediction

Following the great success of our 50th Anniversary Service on February 18, the Planning Committee is now working on the next event: the Hymn-Sing and Concert on Sunday May 27th, 7:00p.m. New committee members are welcome to join us at our next meeting, Sunday April 8 at 6:00p.m. Please speak to Libby Cassidy

Good Friday: the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra and the Fredericton Choral Society will be presenting Antonin Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday March 30th at Wilmot United Church. This wonderful work, one of the towering monuments of choral music, is a setting of the 13th century hymn, 'Stabat Mater', which imagines Mary's suffering during Christ's crucifixion. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 student, children 12 and under free) and are available at Reads Newsstand on King Street, from choir and orchestra members and at the door.

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).

Community Events

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a "Stuffed Pork Loin Dinner" on Wednesday, March 14th, 4 – 6 p.m. Adults \$14. Please call 457-1951 to reserve your tickets.

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

Minute for Missions Thank You from Green Bay

Our gifts for Mission & Service support congregations in transition or in remote locations.

Green Bay South Pastoral Charge is a grateful pastoral charge. In the midst of beautiful Notre Dame Bay in Newfoundland and Labrador, this scenic three-point pastoral charge has been receiving financial support from Mission & Service for a number of years. The small charge is spread over 40 kilometres, with one church accessible only by water. Over the years, a Mission & Service-funded mission support grant has enabled the pastoral charge to adjust to declining numbers and build up its ministry. It anticipates being self-supporting in the near future. The generosity of the United Church has sparked the members' own compassion and kindness. They are generous givers and support Mission & Service. They see first-hand the benefit of being a recipient and feel compelled to grow the wonderful ministries that we support together as a denomination.

During each Sunday service, a Blessing Can is distributed among attenders. People can express their gratitude, name a blessing, and offer a donation. These dollars are set aside as additional donations to specific Mission & Service partners through the Gifts with Vision program. Board chair Lloyd Colbourne says that members enjoy this time of thanksgiving and appreciate being able to grow their ministry and mission. He adds, "We want to thank all the congregations of the United Church for supporting us when we have needed it. We appreciate the opportunity we have to share our gifts, in gratitude." Our gifts for Mission & Service accompany churches such as Green Bay. 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.