

Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



5th Sunday in Lent
March 18, 2018 10 am

"Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe,
and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."
– Winnie the Pooh

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 **Margie Roxborough**, **Janice Flinn**
Alexander Neville and **John Fisher**.

Our hospitality host is **May Houston**
and our tellers are **William Hughes** and **Robert Christie**.

*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.*

Today is a very special day.
Happy 58th wedding anniversary to Graham and Patricia Powell
and Happy 83rd birthday to Graham.
Love Andrea (nee Powell), Todd, Ryan, Kelsey, Luke, Sean and Jessica.

Gathering

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

Prelude: Burlesque in G Major - Anonymous by **River Atkinson**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: The rock of uncertainty.

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:** MV 176 Three Things I Promise

Exploring

Children's Time

****Song of Praise:** VU 660 How Firm a Foundation

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

Words from Our Bible:

Jennifer Abbott

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 119 VU 838-839

Matthew 16:13-20

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music: Andante in G Minor by G.P. Tolemann

Performed by River Atkinson

Reflection

****Hymn of Reflection:** VU 223 Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing

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 64 Because You Came

****Sharing the Light**

****Commissioning and Benediction**

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

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.

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

Run for the Word 2018 will be held on June 2 in Fredericton at Wilmot Park. This is one of the few annual fund raisers that the **Canadian Bible Society** hosts locally. It gives us the opportunity to help provide scripture resources used in Canadian ministry with youth camping, armed forces, prisoners, indigenous people, refugees and migrants and others. This is an excellent opportunity for some exercise (run or walk 1 k or 5 k), fellowship, fresh air, get prizes, enjoy a barbecue and make a difference with God's Word. Please, mark your calendar, pray for the event and consider how you and a friend may participate. More info will follow. Bill MacMullin, event coordinator, 238-5034, canonbill@gmail.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.