

Forest Hill United Church
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Palm Sunday
March 25, 2018 10 am

“Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break, and all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.” – L.R. Knost

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 **Jula Hughes**, **Jean Fisher**
and **John Neville**.

Our hospitality host is **May Houston**
and our tellers are **May Houston** and **Joan Mitchell**.

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: Will you follow Jesus with this sixth rock into the streets of Jerusalem and beyond? Will you witness the celebration that began the week, the meal, the temptation, the arrest? Will you witness the oppression, pain, and suffering that led Jesus to that place? Will you bear witness to the oppression, pain, and suffering of our own world?

The sixth rock is placed.

ONE: The rock that will not be moved.

ALL: May God's Spirit walk with us.

****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: What is that racket?

All: It is the people! The people are celebrating!

One: Celebrating? Celebrating what?

All: The arrival of Jesus! They are saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'

One: Why must they be so loud?

All: Why should they not be?! Even the stones would shout if they could! Today is a day of great joy!

Gathering Prayer

(said by all in unison)

Loving God, on this Palm Sunday we remember the crowds who shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

We remember those who declared with joy,
“This is the prophet Jesus from
Nazareth in Galilee.”

And yet we know that the rocky road to Jerusalem
is the way to the cross, to Golgotha and death.

Be with us now, as we journey with the Christ, through his
Passion, knowing that it is you who defends both Christ and us.
Amen.

Adapted from the prayer by **Wanda Winfield**, *Parry Sound Rural P.C., Seguin, Ont Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017, page 33. Used with permission.*

****Opening Hymn:** VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Exploring

Children’s Time

****Song of Praise:** VU 122 All Glory, Laud and Honour

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

Words from Our Bible:

William Hughes

Psalm 118 VU 837 Part 1, 3, 4
Mark 11:1-11

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music: We Are One by Joseph Martin

Reflection

****Hymn of Reflection:** VU 436 Abide With Me

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

Lord, hear our prayer,

With

and in Your love, answer.

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 forever. Amen.

VU 921 Ecumenical Version

****Closing Hymn:** VU 127 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

****Sharing the Light**

ONE: Jesus believed in, and lived life abundant, for all people. As we move into Holy Week, do you believe in life abundant for yourself and for the world? Will your footsteps walk alongside the footsteps of Jesus in the streets? Will you journey through the week despite the story and the events that are ahead?

The last rock is placed.

ONE: The rock of Holy Week.

ALL: May God's Spirit walk with us.

****Commissioning and Benediction**

****Choral Amen:** (*Sung Together*) MV 225

**Amen, Amen, Amen.
Amen, Amen, 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

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

The Congregational Board met on March 15 for the first board meeting of the new board. From this meeting, we have two more general items and two updates.

We continue our quest for a Chair (or a pair of Co-chairs?) of the Spiritual Guidance Committee. Please speak to Rev. Deborah or any board member if you have any suggestions!

As part of our implementation strategy for the new governance structure, we thought it was worth reminding everyone that the function of the previous M&P Committee is now subsumed under Leadership Development. If you have any concerns, suggestions or want to highlight an achievement regarding ministry and personnel, please speak to one of the co-chairs (Margie Roxborough and Laura Eliaba) in confidence. By the same token, we would ask that you channel any concerns related to ministry and personnel through Leadership Development rather than approaching our Minister or staff directly.

And now for the updates:

We have annual staff reviews coming up. It would be great to have some specific examples of the great work staff are doing. So "gold star" suggestions are welcome, please speak to Margie or leave a note in her mail slot.

The Board has approved appointing Rev. Bob Jones as Minister Emeritus. This is an honorific (unsalaried) title in recognition of his great service to Forest Hill United Church this past year. The Board is grateful to Rev. Deborah for bringing this forward!

COMING UP @ FHUC

Easter Services	Maundy Thursday March 29 th 5:30 pm Good Friday March 30 th 10:00 am Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:45 am Potato Research Farm Easter Service 10:00 am
Planning Committee	will be meeting on April 3 rd 6:00 pm
Movie Night	Friday April 20 th 7:00 pm “The Shack”
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

Theology on Tap was a raging success this week.

For the month of March please bring your expense forms to Mary Grant.

Management Committee Meeting Sunday March 25th after church in the parlour. Please bring your coffee and join Mary Grant. If you are interested in Church and Manse maintenance, overall finances, and for office procedures please attend.

Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper and Service at 5:30. Dessert will be provided.

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.

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, **Tuesday April 3rd** at 6:00p.m. Please speak to Libby Cassidy.

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.

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

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT FOR PALM SUNDAY - The congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church invite you to join them Sunday March 25 at 6:30 pm for a Candlelight Concert for Palm Sunday. Music which focuses on God's great gift of Christ and Christ's great sacrifice for us will be featured as presented by the adult choir and soloists. Offering from the evening is designated to support the work of the Fredericton Community Kitchen. A reception will follow. All welcome.

There will be a free INFORMATION SESSION on "ESTATE PLANNING" Wednesday, March 28, at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the gym at Nashwaaksis United Church. Guest speaker is Janet Gorman of RBC. There will be time for questions and answers so please bring your questions for Janet. Bring a friend. Light refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by The Pastoral Care Committee. Do you have other topics that you would like us to offer?? Please email your suggestions to The Pastoral Care Committee c/o Janice jand1@nbnet.nb.ca or leave a note with the suggestion with Linda for the committee.

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 students, 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

Minute for Missions

Ecumenical Accompaniment in Palestine and Israel

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. In 2002, the World Council of Churches developed the program to create an international presence in the face of Israeli occupation. Since then the United Church has sent over 25 ecumenical accompaniers who have been posted in many regions of Palestine and Israel. From February through April 2017, a United Church of Canada Ecumenical Accompanier was posted in north Israel. There they primarily monitored agricultural gates—counting the number of Palestinian farmers granted access to their land and noting whether the gates were open during their allotted times. During a visit, the Ecumenical Accompanier took United Church staff to a Palestinian park, where Palestinian families enjoy picnics and fresh air. The simple act of picnicing there is a protest against the occupation, and claims land that is (for now) Palestinian. Two Israeli settlements sit atop the valley ridge overlooking the park. The once-flowing river is diminished to a stream, as pipes route water over two kilometres to the Israeli settlement.

Ecumenical Accompaniers take a risk participating in the program. They also face a context very different than life in Canada. Many return to Canada informed and ready to advocate for a just peace and an end to the occupation. Mission & Service allows United Church Ecumenical Accompaniers to accompany the mission and ministry of the World Council of Churches in occupied Palestine. They share first-hand experience to inform their local community of faith, civil society, and government of the realities of occupation. Our gifts for Mission & Service accompany partners in the midst of occupation. 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.



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When you can't look on the bright
side, I will sit with you in the dark.