

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



3rd Sunday in Lent
March 4, 2018 10 am

"If you've come here to help me, you're wasting your time. But if you've come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."
— Australian Aboriginal Elder Lilla Watson

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.

Our worship leader is **Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher**.

Our music this morning is provided by **Brian Cassidy, Libby Cassidy**
and the **FHUC Choir**.

Our greeters this morning are **Joe Rideout** and **Lorna McKnight**.

Our Sunday School Teacher is **John Neville**.

Our hospitality host is **May Houston**

and our tellers are **Jennifer Abbott** and **Mary-Anne Blakney**.

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.

This morning's bulletin is dedicated
in loving memory of **Don Abbott** by his family.



Gathering

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: The rock of misplaced trust.

All: May God's Spirit walk with us.

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

MV 90

**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 #97 Spirit Open My Heart

Exploring

Children's Time:

****Song of Praise:** VU 684 Make me a Channel of Your Peace

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

Words from Our Bible:

May Houston

Genesis 4:8-16

Psalms 19 VU 740-741

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

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

****Hymn of Reflection:** VU 614 In Suffering Love

Responding

Minute for Missions

Laura Eliaba

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:** VU 586 We Shall Go Out

****Sharing the Light**

****Commissioning and Benediction**

