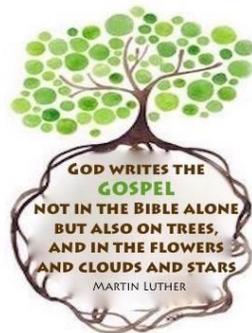


Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 12, 2018 10 am

“Every human community will disappoint us, regardless of how well-intentioned or inclusive.”

~Nadia Bolz-Weber

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

Our worship leader is **Sarah Magie**.

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

Our greeters this morning are **Ron Blakney** and **Mary-Anne Blakney**
and our teller is **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.*

Gathering

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

****Introit:** (*sung together twice*)

MV79

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: We are grateful for the gift of our lives and the gift of others in our lives.

All: Each of us is created with dignity and worth.

One: We are called to love each other and to do nothing to others that we would find hateful to ourselves.

All: We honour the many ways that people live and love.

One: We repent for the times when our faith traditions have named lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people unworthy.

All: Love does not exclude. We are all worthy.

One: We suffer when LGBTQ persons are oppressed, excluded and shamed by religious people who overlook the fundamental call to justice in our scriptures.

All: True justice flourishes when we can live with authenticity and integrity.

One: May we work to build a community where LGBTQ people are celebrated as full and equal members, recognizing their many gifts.

All: We celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all.

(By Joan Stott)

Gathering Prayer

(said by all in unison)

Transcendent God, you took human form and with it human sexuality and gender, entering into our broken world, bearing our suffering along with us. We remember that on this day, forty-nine years ago, a riot broke out as a response to years of victimization and oppression. We lift up those lives and their voices, remembering their hardships. We ask you to send your spirit to us that we may give voice to those without one, and work together to end the oppression of your children who are hurt by discrimination based upon their sexual orientation or gender. As your son, Jesus Christ, healed the woman who touched the hem of his cloak, help us to provide healing to marginalized people and communities, removing the barriers that separate these your children from access to hope, safety, and life abundant. Let this church be a safe haven. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

(Adapted from "Her Voice, the Pine: A Journey of Becoming")

****Opening Hymn:** Draw the Circle Wide

MV 145

Exploring

Children's Time

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.

VU 921 Ecumenical Version

Words from Our Bible:

Mary Grant

Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24

Psalm 122 VU page 845

Luke 13:20-21

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music: Closer to Fine

by Amy Ray

Reflection

****Hymn of Reflection:** Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VU 602

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** *(sung together twice)*

MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

****Prayer After Giving** *(said by all in unison)*

**God of grace,
it is our delight and our devotion
to give these gifts to you.
All we are and all we have
are yours alone.
Accept this joyful offering
as a token of our abiding love:
use it to bring peace, justice
and comfort to all the world. Amen.**

Prayers of Our Community

(Sung response)

VU 400

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

****Closing Hymn:** Who Is My Mother

MV 178

****Sharing the Light**

****Commissioning and Benediction** (*Responsive*)

One: Dearest Lord, in our times of need,
All: grant us the presence of those who are in solidarity with us.

One: In our moments of marginality,
All: grant us the ability to act boldly on our own behalves.

One: In our commitment to human liberation,
All: grant us a spirit of sacrifice that will enable us to empower others to seek and find their own freedom in Christ Jesus.

One: Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Adapted from "Out in Scripture: An honest encounter between LGBT lives & the Bible")

****Choral Amen:** (*sung together twice*)

VU 298

**When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.**

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship!

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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

Quilt Group Mondays 10:00 am -12:00 pm Upper Room
50th Anniversary Planning Committee Tuesday August 14, at 7 pm

Vacation coverage. Kris Yarych, our Admin Assistant is on vacation Tuesday August 28 and Thursday August 30. We are looking for someone to answer the phone both afternoons. Instructions for checking the voicemail are available. If you can help either or both of those days, please let Mary Grant know. Also, bulletin notices for September 2nd will need to be in to the office by noon on Thursday August 23rd.

The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee will meet Tuesday August 14 7pm probably in the Parlour.

Forest Church will be for all the Sundays in August. We are looking for volunteers to get dirty and have fun.

Theology on Tap Please join us at Dolan's Pub on the third Monday of August (the 20th) from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Blessing of the Backpacks will be on September 9th. Please remind all the kids to bring their backpacks on that day.

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Fun Fall Activity Rev. Deborah is looking for a group of volunteers for a fun fall activity. She will be planning a quick gathering with volunteers in September to plan what will hopefully be a fun filled day of fellowship and outreach. If you are interested in this please let Rev. Deborah know when she returns from holiday.

Anyone interested in Church land use issues should check the United Church Observer website. Click on “features” then “Faith” for the article “How Churches are saving themselves through real estate” (by Mike Milne, April 2018). The April edition of the Observer magazine is available in the FHUC library. The article can be found on pages 38-40 under the title “Working the land”.

Scripture Readers are needed each week to assist during Worship Services. For the next few weeks May Houston (455-7715) will be coordinating the readers. Please help her by indicating on the Reader Chart on the table by the kitchen, 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

Summer Time Hymn Sing - Join the congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church for a Hymn Sing of your favourite hymns on Tuesday, August 21 at 7 pm. The evening will be accompanied by David Steeves (organ) and Leah Steeves (piano) and end with an Ice Cream Sandwich Social. All welcome.

Giant Yard Sale rain or shine at Grace Memorial Baptist Church gym, 536 Northumberland St, Sat, Sept 1 from 8 AM to 1 PM. Proceeds will go towards a 2019 Mission Trip to the Philippines.

Minute for Mission We Found Our Home

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries across the country, including this one in North Bay, Ontario. The Community Homeownership Action Group Project, also known as HOAP, extends its heartfelt gratitude to the people of the United Church for continued support through a Mission & Service-funded mission support grant. We are currently working with our 13th family to become stable homeowners. One family member shared with us this story: “When I was a child we moved constantly, never in one house for more than two years. Our son will have a solid home. His room will be his room. He will have roots that I never did. For me, having rented all my life, I have never felt at home in a place. Now I do.”

Another family shared their story: “When we found our home, we put in lots of hard work for renovations. With the help of Project HOAP and some great volunteers, we completed the renovations and were able to move in by early spring. We were worried about the house not being safe, but HOAP had lots of knowledge about what would be needed and took the time to explain everything to us. The program helped us to purchase what we needed to complete the renovations.... It was fantastic to see the outcome.”

Alisha Matheny, coordinator of Project HOAP, says, “Families in our program are hard-working and motivated to accomplish the goal of homeownership; however, without our organization and the support we receive together from the United Church, the obstacles would be too great to overcome. It is a privilege to participate in a program that works alongside its participants to create meaningful change in their lives and our community.” Mission & Service makes this possible. 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.