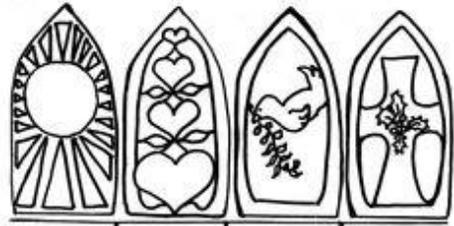


Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Hope | Peace | Joy | Love

**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018 10 a.m.**

Love, the bird, is on the way.

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 greeter this morning is **May Houston**.
Our Sunday School Teachers are **Margie Roxborough**
and **Jean Fisher**.

Our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**
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.*

This bulletin is dedicated in memory of Jim Mitchell by his daughter.

Gathering

*At the **, please rise or remain seated according to your needs.*

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Mary-Anne and Ron Blakney

One: God's world is a rainbow world,
Two: a joyful spectrum of colour.
One: Today, God speaks to us
Two: in flashes of gold and silver that adorn Christmas Trees.
One: We long for the Christ to bring colour to a waiting world
All: **Let us worship God in this season of joy.**

Adapted from the prayer in *Gathering*, A/C/E 2018-2019, page 69. Used with permission.

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

Tune of VU 75

**As we are wondering what comes next.
As we seek peace and joy.
We trust your word revealed to us.
Proclaimed in a baby boy.**

© Catherine MacDonald 2010

Welcome & Church News

Guided Meditation

Call to Worship:

One: Advent, a time for reflection:
All: **we will prepare ourselves
carefully and prayerfully
for the coming of Jesus.**
One: Advent, a time of wonder:
All: **God loved the world so much that
God sent the wonderful child Jesus.**
One: Advent, a time for priorities:

**All: in the midst of preparations,
the rush and the worry,
the light of Christ will shine through.**

One: Advent, a time for inspiration:

**All: if God is for the world, with the world,
and in the world, what can stop God's people
from changing the world?**

One: Come, let us open our lives to God.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C. Gathering, A/C/E 2018-2019, page 30. Used with permission.

Gathering Prayer

God of Joy,
As we draw ever nearer to Christmas in this season of Advent,
Watching and waiting for Your son,
Journey with us.
Help us prepare for His coming with solemnity and joy,
Taking seriously our own call to bring Your Gospel into the
world.
Give us courage to deepen our faith
As we face the busy schedules
And heightened expectations of the season.
All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.
Advent in Narnia, Heidi Haverkamp, Westminster John Knox Press 2015, page 77.

****Opening Hymn:** Song of Simeon VU 903

Exploring

Children's Time

Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,

Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days.
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.
Amen.
Parker J. Palmer

*After the prayer that Jesus taught, children
and teachers will leave for Sunday School.*

Words from Our Bible: Joe Rideout

Isaiah 12:2-6
Psalm 130 VU Page 853
Luke 2:21-40

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: Christmas Lullaby by Jay Althouse

Reflection

****Hymn of Reflection:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VU 8

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** VU 9 v 3

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.**

****Prayer After Giving**

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:** O Come, All Ye Faithful

VU 60

****Sharing the Light**

****Commissioning and Benediction**

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

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

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 p.m.
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

Bible Study	Advent in Narnia today at 1:00 p.m.
Quilt Group	Mondays 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Upper Room

Advent in Narnia Bible Study on the 4 Sundays of advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23) at 1:00 p.m. Feel free to reread the book The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. It will be a bring your own lunch/potluck and Deborah will bring treats. If you wish to do daily devotionals, you may wish to buy the book. Please see Deborah. Sign-up sheet will be at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to listen to the books on CD, please contact Kris at the office.

Due to the holidays, please submit any announcements for the 23rd and 30th by December 18th in order for printing. Any announcements for January 6th, please have submitted by December 31st. Kris will be out of the office Dec 25 & 27.

Open House at the manse on Saturday December 22 from 3 – 7 p.m.

The Gifts with Vision catalogue is available for gift giving which benefits others. The catalogue is in effect until September 2019

Looking for Christmas Gifts? Don't forget the "Just Us" Coffee and more; the 50th Anniversary History of FHUC at a suggested \$20.00 and Forest Hill United Note cards 6 for \$5.00.

Do you have some old towels or other absorbent cloth that could be used for rags? If you do please put them in the janitor's closet. Thank you.

Your favourite hymns are being requested. Please fill out a ballot and put your selection in the box at the back of the church.

Photos or video may be taken for use on our web site and social media sites. Please advise a board member if you do not want your photo used on-line.

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 a.m. We also post cancellations on our Facebook page (viewable on the left side of our main web page).

Minute For Mission Spiritual Healing

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of community ministries like Our Place Society in Victoria, British Columbia. In a nurturing atmosphere of home and family, Our Place serves Victoria's most vulnerable: people who are addicted and homeless, the working poor, those who are mentally and physically challenged, and impoverished elderly people. This remarkable inner-city centre relates to the people who use it as family members, not clients, with an emphasis on creating a compassionate, caring community.

Our Place tends to its family members' physical needs, serving over 1,600 meals a day and providing hot showers, clothing, health care, and an overdose prevention site. It also cares for people's spiritual needs. "For people who live on the streets, there is a lot of grief and death," says Grant McKenzie, a staff member. "We need to be able to connect with people on a spiritual level."

In 2017, Our Place hired a First Nations spiritual leader who can better connect the centre to the 30 percent of its members who identify as Indigenous. Don Beacham is a Cree man from Norway House reserve in Manitoba who is steeped in Indigenous spiritual teachings and traditions. He connects with the Indigenous population through hosting healing circles and smudges, through drumming and song, and through his warm, caring presence. With the smudges, he says, "people feel lighter" because "they know they are cherished, cared for, and prayed for in that moment."

With your support, Our Place Society is able to focus on creating sacred and healing community.

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