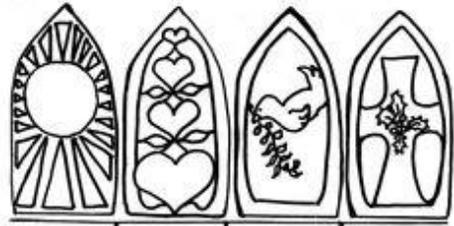


Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Hope | Peace | Joy | Love

**4th Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018 10 a.m.**

Love, the star, 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 **Bob Fisher**.

Our Sunday School Teachers are **Mary Grant** and **Rachel Neville**.

Our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**
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 or remain seated according to your needs.*

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Peggy and Robert Hawkes

One: God's world is a rainbow world,

Two: a joyful spectrum of colour.

One: Today, God speaks to us in blue

Two: representing Mary's beloved child, soon to be born into a
waiting world.

One: We long for the Christ to bring colour to a waiting world.

All: **Let us worship God in this season of love.**

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 welcoming the Christ.

When he is born anew.

We trust your word revealed to us

Today and all year through.

© 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 love,
As we draw near to Christmas,
Watching and waiting for Your son,
Journey with us.
Grow in our hearts a sense of delight and awe at His coming,
To change the world and redeem us all.
Give us courage to deepen our faith
As we face the busy schedules
And heightened expectations of the season. .00
All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*Adapted from the prayer in Advent in Narnia, Heidi Haverkamp, Westminster John Know Press
2015, page 80.*

****Opening Hymn:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 1 - 4 VU 1

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,

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Continued ----->

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:

Janice Flinn

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80 VU Page 794 Part 1
Hebrews 10:5-10

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: Mary Did You Know by Lowry and Green
Sung by Danielle Cole

Reflection

****Hymn of Reflection:** A Voice Was Heard in Ramah MV 111

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** VU 9 v4

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.**

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****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:** Once in Royal David's City

VU 62

****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.
Christmas Eve	6:45 – 7 sing along December 24 th at 7 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. 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. If you would like to listen to the books on CD, please contact Kris at the office.

Please join us tomorrow, December 24th, at 6:45 – 7:00 for sing along and then at 7 p.m. for a Christmas Eve Service featuring a candlelight singing of 'Silent Night'. Hot apple cider and great fellowship will be offered after the service.

Due to the holidays, Kris will be out of the office Dec 25 & 27. The bulletin for Sunday December 30th has already been printed. Any announcements for January 6th, please have submitted by December 31st.

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.

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).

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 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.

Minute For Mission Serve God Gladly

Our gifts for Mission & Service support programs that empower women in the developing world.

At the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Dodoma, Tanzania, there is a sign that reads, "Serve God gladly." Morogoro has been a Mission & Service global partner since the centre's creation in 1979.

The centre offers a variety of courses, from legal advocacy to agriculture to maternal health. The goal is to empower women to make a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Over the past five years, United Church Women have supported the Traditional Birth Attendants program at the centre. Five hundred women have graduated from this program and are now able to assist mothers to give birth safely in communities that often lack a clinic or hospital. Traditional Birth Attendants, or midwives, play a significant role in reducing maternal and infant mortality through pre- and post-natal care and birthing techniques. Mothers and their children are alive thanks to this program and to the vision of the Morogoro Centre.

Our ongoing gifts for Mission & Service enable core support for the Morogoro Women's Training Centre.

If Mission & Service 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.