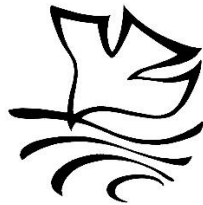


Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



**The Baptism of the Lord
January 13, 2018 10 a.m.**

I once heard Desmond Tutu speaking to a gathering of Christians during the height of South Africa's apartheid regime. "What keeps you going?" he was asked. "What makes you so sure that justice will prevail." He let go with that infectious laugh of his and, throwing up his arms, he said, "But I'm baptized!" The audience was stunned. He laughed all the more and continued, "'Baptized into Christ, there is neither Jew, nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.' This is God's promise to us my friends. God is faithful, and God does not break promises. Remember your baptism!"
William S. Kervin, *Worship Words*, 2004

WELCOME to worship!

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

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

Our greeter this morning is **May Houston**.

Our Sunday School Teachers are **John Neville** and **Margie Roxborough**.

Our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**
and our tellers are **William Hughes** and **Lorna McKnight**.

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 Christ Candle

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

VU 402 v1

**We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet,
together in this place.**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: John turned the world
of the people of his time upside down;
he called for a dramatic change
and the people responded.

Is his call coming to us and to our time?

All: **To seek calm within the rush and struggle,
to seek the spirit-life
amongst the getting and spending,
to seek the downtrodden and support them,
to seek compassion where there is hurting.**

One: Are we ready to go down
into the waters of renewal?

John is beckoning. Let us worship.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C. Gathering, A/C/E 2018-2019, page 43. Used with permission.

Gathering Prayer

**God, where do I find myself
when the Christmas angels disappear
and no longer sing of peace and good will?
When the shepherds go back to their flocks
and the magi return to the east?
Where do I find myself now, when the Christ Child
has outgrown his manger bed?
Jesus calls us to join him at the River Jordan,
to be baptized with him
and receive the Holy Spirit.**

May I find myself at the river, beside Jesus, today. Amen.

Fern Gibbard, for Naramata Community Church, Naramata, B.C. *Gathering*, A/C/E 2018-2019, page 44. Used with permission.

****Opening Hymn:** I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry VU 644

Listening

Children's Time

Prayer that Jesus Taught: (responsive)

One: Our Father
All: Our Mother
One: Who art in heaven
All: Who are in all the earth
One: Hallowed be thy name
All: Holy is your truth
One: Thy kingdom come
All: May your wisdom come
One: Thy will be done,
All: Your circle be one uniting
One: on earth as it is in heaven
All: uniting heaven and earth
One: Give us this day our daily bread
All: Give us today a nurturing spirit
One: And forgive us our trespasses
All: Heal through us

One: as we forgive those who trespass against us

All: as we ourselves are healed

One: You who does not lead us into temptation

All: You who leads us into Fullness of life

One: But delivers us from evil

All: But liberates all that is good

One: For thine is the Kingdom,

All: For the Wisdom,

One: the power and the glory

All: Presence and the Goodness are Yours

Now and forever Amen.

Adapted from the prayer from Dominican Sisters Retreat, March 1993, Great Bend, Kansas

Words from Our Bible:

Robert Christie

Psalm 29 VU Page 756

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Acts 8:14-17

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

Reflection Remember your Baptism

New Member Welcome

Congregational Commitment #1

(The congregation may stand, as they are able, to pledge their support)

One: Let us pledge to these persons our continued support and care.

All: We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.

Congregational Commitment #2

All: As siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We commit our love and support and with God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

****Hymn of Reflection:** When Jesus Comes to be Baptised VU 100

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** VU 402 v2

We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray
together in this place.

****Prayer over the Gifts**

Prayers of the People

(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:** River MV 3

****Sharing the Light**

****Commissioning and Benediction**

****Choral Amen:** (*sung together*) VU 402 v4

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move
together from this place.

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

Quilt Group Mondays 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Upper Room

Kris will be out of the office January 15 & 17.

There will be a board meeting on Jan 17th at 7 for 7:30 p.m. in the upper room. Any agenda items or reports should be submitted to the chair no later than Tuesday of that week. This will be primarily a budget planning meeting, so other agenda items will only be considered if they cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting.

Reports for the annual report are due January 20th. Any group or individual who is interested in submitting a report should send it to margie.roxborough@bellaliant.net or contact her at 455-0576 to arrange to get a handwritten copy to her.

Forest Hill UCW will meet at the home of Doreen Kisskick, 792 Burden St, on Monday Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

Theology on Tap will be held on the third Monday of January (the 21st) from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Please join us at Dolan's Pub.

Agenda items for the annual meeting (Feb. 24) should be submitted for consideration no later than Feb. 1st.

We will have a guest speaker Graham Nickerson, coming in February for Black History Month.

Observer Renewals and new subscriptions. If you wish to renew or start a new subscription, please let Margaret Macdougall know (455-3767) by February 10, 2019. Cost is \$25. Payment may be placed on the offering plate in an envelope plaining marked OBSERVER and with your name and address. If payment is by cheque this should be payable to Forest Hill United Church.

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 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 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.

Community Events

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Fredericton is having the World Day of Prayer Planning Meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Church Parish Church, 245 Westmorland Street. The Church is Wheelchair Accessible. The 2019 World Day of Prayer service was written by the Women of Slovenia (part of former Yugoslavia). Any women of all denominations of faith are encouraged to come to help plan for the World Day of Prayer which will be held on March 1, 2019. On that day please join us with 170 Countries worldwide as we pray for justice and peace.

Morning Gate Church the Women's Retreat "Into HIS Marvelous Light" is coming up soon. The Women's Retreat is Saturday, January 19th - from 9a.m. - 3:30 p.m. with special speaker: Sue Lambropoulos. Please return your registration fee ASAP - there's only 2 weeks left! Once Registration Forms are filled out and ready to go, please drop them off at the church office for safe keeping. 74 Morning Gate Drive, Fredericton, NB.

Fair trade coffee, tea, sugar, and chocolate are available every Sunday here at Forest Hill. Make your selection and support the outreach efforts of our congregation!



Just a friendly reminder that Forest Hill United Church is a **scent-free environment**. Strong scents, aftershave lotions and perfumes have an effect upon others with allergies and asthmatic problems. No scents make good sense.

Minute For Mission Multi-Faith Spaces for Students

Our gifts for Mission & Service offer students an opportunity to gather for a meal in a multi-faith, safe space at places like the large Halifax campus of Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. If you visit Dalhousie's Multifaith Centre on Monday night, you will be greeted with a free hot meal provided by United Church chaplain the Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt, and so much more!

In the midst of a large university campus, the Monday Night Meal creates an inviting and intimate space in which chaplains greet students from diverse backgrounds by name. Even the food available (including vegetarian, halal, and kosher options) reflects an intentional effort to support respectful, intercultural and multi-faith community bonds. As they share soup and conversation, students build trust with one another and the chaplains. They share stories and opinions, including personal beliefs and spiritual perspectives.

During special seasons on the inter-faith calendar, the Multifaith Centre student assistants occasionally take the lead, contributing food and related traditions that are essential to their faith. At the Monday Night Meal, there's an open table and a warm welcome!

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.