

Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Epiphany
January 6, 2018 10 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Our worship leader is **Rev. Brian MacDonald.**

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

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

Our Sunday School Teachers are **May Houston** and **Jean Fisher.**

Our hospitality host is **Norma Reid**
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.*

Gathering

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

VU 48 verse 1

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark, the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord says “I am a high and holy God... I live in a high and holy place, but I also live with those who are humble and repentant, so that I can restore their confidence and hope.” *(Isa. 57:15)*

People: Therefore we confidently declare that God has come to us in Jesus, to reconcile us to God and to one another, and to make all things new.

All: So let's encourage one another with the words of Isaiah:
“Arise, shine, for your Light has come!”

Gathering Prayer

At the beginning of this new year, gracious and loving God, we recall a poem King George VI once quoted in his radio broadcast in a troubled time:

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way." (from "God Knows" by Minnie Haskins)
You know, O Lord, that we are challenged by the truth that we're called to walk by faith and not by sight. As we step out in faith, help us to see that your strong and loving arms are there to form a bridge over whatever troubled waters we may need to cross; your Spirit is there to guide us. We praise you and thank you for this reality!! In Jesus name, Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** Unto Us a Boy Is Born (v. 1-2, 4-5) VU 54

Listening

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

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Words from Our Bible:

Diane Robinson

Matthew 2:1-12
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

Reflection Epiphany(ies) I Have Had

****Hymn of Reflection:** Like a Healing Stream MV 144

Responding

Minute For Mission

Bob Fisher

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** VU 55 verse 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

****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:** Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
VU 101 (to the tune of VU 516)

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