

# Forest Hill United Church

*'open doors, open hearts, open minds'*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**March 24, 2019 10 a.m.**

“Why are there so many songs about rainbows  
and what's on the other side?  
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions  
and rainbows have nothing to hide”  
Kermit the Frog

WELCOME to worship!

Our worship leader is Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher.

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

Our greeters this morning are Diane Robinson and Dorma Grant.

Our hospitality host is May Houston  
and our tellers are Bob Fisher 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.*

Happy Birthday to Karen Flinn from her daughters,  
who wish her the best, because she the best Momma.

## Gathering

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

### Prelude

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Today as we light the Christ Candle to remind ourselves of a “with us” God, we also extinguish three Lenten Candles to remind us of the sacrifice God made for the love of us. As we do this we bring to mind the colour pink and all the images it invokes for us. Pink, the colour of sweet surprises and frilly dresses that seem firmly in our past. Newborn hands and the aged hands that hold them. Gender norms and expectations. Pink is the colour of life giving love. One candle is lit, three are extinguished.

**\*\*Introit:** As the Sun with Longer Journey VU 111 V1

As the sun with longer journey  
melts the winter's snow and ice,  
with its slowly growing radiance  
warms the seed beneath the earth,  
may the sun of Christ's uprising  
gently bring our hearts to life.

### Welcome & Church News

### Call to Worship:

One: God, we come to you in all our many colours.  
Our sad blues and excited rosy reds.

**All: We come, bringing our grief and joy.**

One: We come to you in our shifting colours,  
moods changing with the seasons.

**All: We come, bringing our chaotic selves.**

One: We come to you in fantastic sparks of colour

**All: We come, bringing our creativity,  
our passions and our talents.**

One: We come to you in all our muted hues.  
**All: We come, bringing our frustrations, losses and disappointments.**  
One: We come to you, as we are, as you made us.  
**All: We come, bringing our entire being... knowing that in us, You are well pleased.**

### Gathering Prayer

God of the rainbow we come to you in this season of Lent with mixed emotions. As we look forward to the coming of Spring we also dread the coming of that Friday when all the earth was covered in cloud so dark day turned to night. Remind us, oh God that it was you who sent the cloud, it is you in the darkness that precedes the dawn. Remind us that what we call our Dark Days are really just the days in which we can become closer to You. Days in which the bright lights of the world around us can be muted enough for us to hear our innermost thoughts. Remind us that Your darkness enfolds us in comfort and safety. Through You, with You and in You, we are never alone. Amen.

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU 651

## Exploring

**Children's Time** I Am a Rainbow

### Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all.  
Loving God, in whom is heaven.  
The hallowing of your name  
echoes through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples  
of the earth! Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.

Amen.

From the New Zealand Prayer Book

*After the Prayer that Jesus Taught,  
children and teachers will leave for Sunday School.*

### A New Creed

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

VU 400

**Promise of Assurance**

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!

**Words from Our Bible:**

**Jennifer Abbott**

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63 VU Page 781 with Refrain 2  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

**\*\*Closing Hymn:** All Who Are Thirsty

MV 4

**\*\*Sharing the Light**

**\*\*Commissioning and Benediction**

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**\*\*Choral Amen:** As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU 111 V3

**Reflection**

It's not easy being green

**Special Music:**

Rainbow Connection by The Muppets

Praise be given to the Maker  
of the seasons' yearly round:  
to the Speaker through the Spoken  
in their living Breath of love  
as the ever turning seasons  
roll to their eternal rest.

**\*\*Hymn of Relection:** All Who Hunger

VU 460

**Responding**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Postlude**

**\*\*Offering Verse:** As the Sun with Longer Journey VU 111 V2

*Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship!*

Through the days of waiting, watching  
in the desert of our sin,  
searching on the far horizon  
for a sign of cloud or wind,  
we await the healing waters  
of our Saviour's victory.

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**OFFICE HOURS**

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - *Kris Yarych*  
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 p.m.  
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

**\*\*Prayer After Giving**

Minister - *Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher*  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 1-4, and any other time by appt.  
email revdeborahfhuc@gmail.com (506) 999-4189 [cell]

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**Prayers of Our Community**

Please advise us if prayer need to be added to or taken off the list.

## Church News

### COMING UP @ FHUC

Lenten Study	1:00 p.m.
Quilt Group	Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Upper Room
Games Day	March 30 <sup>th</sup> 2 - 8 p.m.

Lenten Study Sunday, March 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor, which can be purchased downtown at Westminster Books or signed out from the Public Library.

Games Day Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2 - 8 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of card and/or board game playing. Come any time after 2 and bring your favourite games or play one that someone else has brought. We will be ordering pizza for supper around 5:30 p.m. for those who wish. If you have any questions, contact Karen (474-1534).

Lenten Challenge is to use less plastic. If you want a copy of the challenge please ask Reverend Deborah.

Decluttering Lenten Challenge A box will be available for people who would like to donate small items that they are not able to get to their charity of choice.

The Forest Hill Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Church parlour at 12 noon. The book for April is The Republic of Nothing by Lesley Choyce.

Movie Night Rescheduled due to weather Friday April 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The King's Speech. Suitable for ages 14+ due to some coarse language. Popcorn and tea will be served.

Theology on Tap will be held on the third Monday of April (the 15<sup>th</sup>) from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please join us at Dolan's Pub.

Hike for Hospice The Hike for Hospice is taking place on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Once again, Forest Hill will have a team participating in this event. If you would like to join the team, sponsor someone on the team or get more information about the event, please contact Jennifer Abbott (454-2829).

Reverend Deborah would love a matched set of wing back chairs for the study. Please let us know if you have anything.

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.

## Community Events

MEN IN SONG - Join the congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church tonight, March 24, 6:30 p.m. for "An Evening of Men in Song for Missions". Soloists David Steeves and Chris Graves, duets by Peter and Dan Steeves, a men's ensemble and chorus present a wonderful concert of songs of praise - including lots of congregational singing. The offering will be in support of missions in India and here in Fredericton. All welcome.

Wilmot United Church will have The Louisbourg Choir on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for \$30. Admission is free for students. This project is made possible with financial support from Louisbourg Investments, the Government of New Brunswick and the Canada Council for the Arts. The Louisbourg Choir will be concluding this season with an ambitious concert devoted to the works of Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704), undeniable master of sacred music in France. Monique Richard will be conducting both the choir and a baroque orchestra whose eight members, playing on period instruments, are Jacques-André Houle and Émilie Brûlé, violins; Margaret Little, viola and viola da gamba; Amanda Keesmaat, cello; Vincent Lauzer and Caroline Tremblay, recorders; Michel Cardin, theorbo; and Jonathan Addleman, organ.

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St. will be hosting a "Turkey Dinner" on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adult and \$3/child. Please call 457-1666 to reserve your tickets.

"The Universal Christ: another name for everything" features keynote speakers Richard Rohr, John Dominic Crossan and Jacqui Lewis. The event will be live webcast March 28-31 at Marysville United Church, 351 Canada Street. Sessions: Thursday March 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Friday March 29, 2:15 -9:00 p.m.; Saturday March 30, 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday March 31, 12 -3:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 for the event or \$12.00 per session. The schedule can be found on the Facebook Page: Universal Christ: Fredericton. Register by sending your name, email, phone number to our email. Please note if you will be attending the whole event. If not, please indicate the sessions you will be present. [universalchristfredericton@gmail.com](mailto:universalchristfredericton@gmail.com)

"When Love Hurts: Understanding & Healing Domestic Abuse" will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays April 2 to 23 at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, corner of Northumberland and Connaught. This 4-week support group offers hope and help to those caught in the cycle of abuse. Register at 458-8527 or [gracem@nb.aibn.com](mailto:gracem@nb.aibn.com). No cost.

Delicious Chili Take-Out Supper, Friday, April 5, pick-up 4-6 p.m., Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street. Enjoy chili (mild beef), roll, side salad and dessert for \$12. Reserve your take-out meals by April 3 with Rindy or Tom Austin, 450-7151.

Bottle Drive The 333 Air Cadets (of which Charlotte is a member) is having a bottle drive on Saturday, April 6th. You can bring your refundables in to Charlotte or Karen before that day. If you have a lot of refundables that you would be willing to donate, let one of us know and cadets will come to pick them up on the morning of the 6th.

Joy Network is excited to present the Sky Terminal "Glow Festival" concert coming to Fredericton, April 12 at 131 Duncan Lane Fredericton. Doors open at 6 p.m. and it's for the whole family! There are fun events happening for kids such as bouncy castles and Pastor's Hour of Prayer. Tickets are \$15/individual or \$20/family purchased in advance (at the JoyFM office, 515 St. Mary's Street) or \$20/individual at the door. Ticket price per child under 12 is \$5.

## **Minutes for Mission Children Deserve to Be Children**

Our gifts for Mission & Service give children in war-torn countries a chance to be children in places like Palestine with the help of Defence for Children International. On a mural in Aida Refugee Camp inside Bethlehem are the words of Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The article states the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

The refugee camp is less than one square kilometre in size and holds more than 5,500 Palestinian refugees. Just around the corner from the mural is a playing field covered by netting. The netting is to protect children from tear gas canisters, rubber bullet capsules, and other debris that Israeli Defence Force soldiers use during their weekly raids on the camp. Children have been reprimanded for playing a game similar to North American “Cowboys and Indians.” The game is called “Palestinians and Settlers.” The difference is that the game doesn’t end with capture; once captured, the “Palestinian” is punched and kicked by the “Settlers.” This is a disturbing normalization of the occupation. According to the Director of the Accountability, Programme of Defence for Children International, Palestine (DCI-P), 150 to 200 Palestinian children are arrested and persecuted in the Israeli military system each year. Each child is exposed to torture, solitary confinement, physical assault, and interrogation to ensure confession to a crime (whether committed or not). DCI-P reports information gathered from its legal team to UN committees and special rapporteurs. Mission & Service supports children’s rights in Palestine.

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.