

# Forest Hill United Church

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



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**March 31, 2019 10 a.m.**

God looks at his people as children of a family who are happy that those who have done only a little bit are as much loved as those who accomplish much.  
Henri J.M. Nouwen, Return of the Prodigal Son

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 Jennifer Abbott.

Our hospitality host is May Houston.

Our Sunday School Teachers are Margie Roxborough  
and Rachel Neville

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.*

## 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 four 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 rose and all the images it invokes for us. Rose, the colour of joy and spring blossoms. Rosy cheeks and rose coloured glasses. Rose is the colour of life blooming forth. One candle is lit, four 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:** God Says MV 172

### Exploring

### Children's Time

### 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.*

### Prayer of Confession

### Promise of Assurance

### Words from Our Bible:

**William Hughes**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32 VU Page 759 with Refrain  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

**Special Music:** Down In The River To Pray

**Reflection** The Prodigal Heart

**\*\*Hymn of Relection:** New Every Morning VU 405

## Responding

### Presentation of Our Gifts

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

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.

### \*\*Prayer After Giving

#### Prayers of Our Community

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

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:** Would You Bless Our Homes and Families VU 556

### \*\*Sharing the Light

### \*\*Commissioning and Benediction

**\*\*Choral Amen:** As the Sun with Longer Journey VU 111 V3

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.

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## Postlude

*Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship*

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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

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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## Church News

### COMING UP @ FHUC

Lenten Study	1:00 p.m.
FHUC Book Club	Tuesday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the parlour at noon
Quilt Group	Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Upper Room

Lenten Study March 31 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.

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.

Update on the Envelope Fundraiser. To date \$987 has been raised for this fundraiser. If you would like to contribute, please pick up an envelope and donate the amount numbered on the envelope. If you are not sure how this works, speak to any board member for details.

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.

Weekly we are now emailing out a clip of the sermon from Sunday, along with any updates we might have. If anybody would like to borrow the Lenten Reflection book when Reverend Deborah is finished the study, it will be available from her.

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.

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 5th. 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).

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.

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

## Community Events

The Fredericton Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven's famous 5th Symphony this afternoon, Sunday March 31st, 3pm at Christ Church Cathedral. Tickets available at the door: \$25 general, \$10 students, 12 and under free. Special family rate: \$50 for up to 2 adults and as many children as you consider family.

Skyline Acres Baptist Church, 135 Canterbury Drive, Fredericton invites you to the Sunday Evening Hymn Sing Service March 31st @ 6:30 p.m. Come and sing some of your favourite hymns, choruses, and enjoy a brief reflection by our pastor Dr. Karl Csaszar on "Three Life-Changing Words." Why not set some time on the Lord's Day for gathering with others in songs of praise and worship? You are also welcome to stay for refreshments following the service. Call 455-9495 and check out our Facebook.

"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. 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) are 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 someone 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 / No One to Notify**

The air was filled with excitement at Oak Table Community Ministry in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as guests who signed up for Beach Day confirmed the details. "What time should I be here?" "How many are going?" "What time does the bus leave?" "What are we having for lunch?" were common questions. A few guests were anxious, wanting to know how their ID would be safe if they went in the water, or how they would get breakfast that morning since they usually go to a soup kitchen.

Some things were easily solved. The ministry would help keep wallets safe; they would serve juice and a muffin to everyone when they arrived. Other things were not easily solved and showed just how alone in the world many of the guests are. As those staffing the camp did their due diligence in making sure they had phone numbers and names of next of kin or a friend who could be contacted in case of emergency, they quickly found out that many had no one they could name. No friend, no relative, no neighbour to call if something happened to them. It is hard to imagine that someone could be so isolated, so alone. When Oak Table guests are hospitalized, the ministry is their contact person. When someone goes in for surgery, often Oak Table is the name that goes down as the emergency contact. The ministry's staff and volunteers are the ones who miss them when they are not there. They are their family.

For those attending, Beach Day could be the only "family" outing they have, with the only "family" they know.

Your gifts for Mission & Service help make sure all have a place to go and people they can call family.

