

Forest Hill United Church
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



1st Sunday of Christmas – December 29, 2019 10 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Minister Emeritus – Rev. Bob Jones Ph.476-8020
Rev. Jones is available for Emergency Pastoral Care

Minister - Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher

Musical Director – Alex Good

Greeters – John Neville

Tellers - Bob Fisher and Lorna McKnight

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

Tuesday 1:45 – 4:45 p.m. & Thursday 12:45-3:45 p.m.
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

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.

For detailed announcements please see the announcement page on the bulletin boards or easel in the sanctuary.

Gathering

Worship Leader – Libby Cassidy

*At the **, please rise or remain seated as you desire.*

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Introit:

VU 59 v. 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing. (x3)

Welcome and church news

Call to Worship:

One: Christ is born! The light of God's presence has entered into creation! Give God glory!
All: All glory be to God on high and on Earth, peace!
One: Christ is born! The Word of God cries out in human flesh! Give God glory!
All: All glory be to God on high and on Earth, peace!
One: Christ is born! The dwelling of God is among us! Give God glory!
All: All glory be to God on high and on Earth, peace!
One: Come, let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

Challenge us, God, with your presence in the world.
Challenge us, God, in the life of a child.
Challenge us, God, into new being,
that we might be Christmas always. Amen
(from "Gathering" Christmas 2013 p 32)

**Opening Hymn: In the Bleak Mid-Winter

VU 55

Story Time:

**Song of Praise: Joy is Now in Every Place VU 45

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 63: 7-9
Responsive Psalm 148 VU 871
Matthew 2: 13-23

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

Special Music:

Reflection:

**Hymn of Reflection:
In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy VU 77 (tune VU 440)

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

**Offering Verse: (Sung to the tune of Good King Wenceslas)

These our gifts we offer now, thankful for God's blessings.
May they each be used with care, spreading a hopeful message.
Jesus' birth transformed the world, giving us a new way.
May our gifts work as he did, changing lives today-ay-ay.

**Prayer After Giving:

Prayers of Our Community:

Prayer that Jesus Taught us

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 into 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

Lord, listen to your children praying, VU 400
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**Closing Hymn: The first Nowell VU 91 (verses 1-4)

**Sharing the Light

**Commissioning and Benediction:

**Choral Amen: MV 220

Hope shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship

Forest Hill Important Dates

1. Loving our Neighbours:
"You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31)
Mission and Service 2019 Congregational Goal \$10,150.
Givings as of December 15 \$11,497.