

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



5th Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

** Please rise in spirit or in body as you are able

Prelude: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds VU 344

Words of Welcome:

Welcome to this time of worship

We are so glad you are here.

We are an open-minded, open-hearted, affirming community, seeking to follow in the way of Jesus, and engage in the work of compassion, love, and justice.

Wherever you are in your faith journey, with whatever questions you carry,

You are welcome here.

Whomever you love, whatever your gender identity, your sexual orientation, your ethnicity, race or ability,

You are welcome here.

Announcements:

Land Acknowledgement

Upon this great traditional land, we walk, live and play, acknowledging that this unceded land is the sacred home of the Wolastqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We recognize their stewardship and honour them as keepers of the land.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit: Halle, Halle, Halle VU 958

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Gathering Prayer: (All)

We worship our Maker, who delights in diversity;

We worship the Lover, who in Jesus reached out and accepted and embraced everyone, despite all social, class, ethnic and spiritual barriers.

We worship the Keeper, the Spirit who continues to break down the walls that divide us. Thanks be to God!

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Adaptation by Jim Cotter VU 916

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 echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

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, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, 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.

Gathering Song: There's A Wideness in God's Mercy VU 271

Intergenerational Time: Many Names for God

Hymn of Praise: Like a Rock MV 92

Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

One: Grace giving God, be with us as we open our hearts to you.

All: Hear our prayers, O God.

One: We identify with the church home in which we find comfort.

All: Hear our prayers, O God.

One: We cling to those things to which we are accustomed and are uncertain of how we will fit into new situations.

All: Hear our prayers, O God.

One: We know change is inevitable and our reluctance to change can hide the positives.

All: Hear our prayers, O God.

One: As we embrace the changes before us, be with us and hear the thoughts of our hearts as we bring them to you in silence.

-Moment of silent prayer-

Words of Assurance:

One: God has assured us as Easter people that we are loved and supported throughout our individual and collective struggles with inevitable change.

All: God hears our prayers!

Special Music: Danny Boy

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Luke 15: 11-32

Margie Roxborough

One: Herein lies Divine Wisdom.

All: We listen with our heart, soul and mind.

Reflection: With Arms Wide Open

Hymn of Reflection: O God, How We Have Wandered VU 112

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: What Can I Do? MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: My Peace, My Peace by Arlo Guthrie
**My peace, my peace is all I've got that I can give to you.
My peace is all I've ever had, it's all I ever knew.
I give my peace to red and white, to green and black and blue.
My peace, my peace is all I've got that I can give to you.**

Closing Hymn: Seek Ye First VU 356

Commissioning and Blessing:

Choral Amen: God Says MV 172 vs 4
**God says, "Reach out! The world's in need
And wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
To act for Christ in everything."**

Postlude: How Firm a Foundation VU 660

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Reverend Rose-Hannah Gaskin
Pastoral Care – Rev. Ian Manson 506-333-8318 and
Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Robert Christie
Tellers – Bob Fisher and Lorna McKnight
Hospitality – May Houston
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych
Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.
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