

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



Third Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2017 at 10 am

“And [Jesus] said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’”
Mark 4:9 (NRSV)

“Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit
is saying to the churches.” Revelation 3:6 (NRSV)

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.

Our worship leaders are Rev. Ali Anningson
and our music director is Alex Good,

who leads us with the assistance of the FHUC Choir.

Our greeter this morning is Robert Christie,
our Sunday School teachers are Mary Grant, & Margie Roxborough
our hospitality host is May Houston,
and our tellers are Diane Robinson and Jean Fisher.

*Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for all people to gather
regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status,
sexual orientation, and gender identity. All are welcome here!*

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*Today our bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God in honour of
Patricia and Graham Powell's 57th wedding anniversary and
Graham's 82nd birthday.*

*Love Andrea, Todd, Ryan, Kelsey and Sean
Kevin, Renay and Katie*

Gathering In

At the **, please rise in body or in spirit.

Lent - A Season for Listening

Prelude: Handbell Choir By Nancy and Randall Faber

Thank you to River Atkinson for offering
the Prelude, Special Music and Postlude today.

****Introit:** *(Sung Together)* #400 VU

**God, may we hear what you are saying.
God, stir our souls and calm our fears.
God, may we hear what you are saying.
Open hearts, open minds, open ears.**

Revised Words by Ali Smith, 2017

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: Come, all you who thirst!
**All: We come thirsting for God's welcome,
which we find in one another.**
One: Jesus knew this kind of thirst.
Moving through the dusty desert,
his lips were cracked and his soul was parched.
**All: In our own Lenten time,
we are thirsty for the same water.**
One: Welcome to this holy place and this hour of worship.
Come to this well of living waters.

Gathering Prayer: *(Spoken Together)*

Mind-boggling God, we give thanks
that for all who walk by faith, there is always light,
that even in the darkness, hope flickers,
that there is enough bread for those who hunger for goodness.

In this quiet sanctuary,
may our faith be stabilized and our love enlarged.
May we who pause to connect with you here,
be happy serving you out in the rough and rowdy world,
as we encourage our pilgrims on the long road ahead. Amen.

By Kevin Little (edited) in *Gathering L/E* 2017

****Opening Hymn:** #672 VU Take Time to Be Holy

Listening Together

Welcoming the Darkness

Listening Song: “The Sound of Silence” by Simon and Garfunkel

**Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence**

**In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone
'Neath the halo of a street lamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light
That split the night**

And touched the sound of silence

**And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices never share
And no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence**

**"Fools" said I
"You do not know, silence like a cancer grows
Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you"
But my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed
In the wells of silence**

**And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming
And the signs said
"The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls
And tenement halls
And whisper'd in the sounds of silence**

Story Time

Lenten Hymn: #144 MV Like a Healing Stream

*After the first verse is sung,
children, youth and teachers leave for Sunday School.*

Words from Our Bible:

Graham Powell

Psalm 95 - Parts 1 & 2
John 4:5-42

Page 814 VU (with Refrain)
Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

One: This is the Word of God for our listening ears.

All: Thanks be to God!

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Special Music: Arietta is C by Muzzio Clementi

Message: "What did Jesus hear?"

****Hymn of Reflection:** #117 MV By the Well, a Thirsty Woman

Going Forth

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** *(Sung Together)* #376 VU

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, and sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

****Prayer After Giving**

The Prayer That Jesus Taught: #959 VU The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Our Community

****Closing Hymn:** #589 VU Lord, Speak to Me

****Blessing:**

****Choral Response:** *(Sung Together)* #216 MV

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Postlude: Shepherd's Song by Nancy and Randall Faber

Please join us for coffee and conversation directly following the

service.

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OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

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

Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**
Mondays to Thursdays from 9 am - Noon
revalianningson@gmail.com (506) 292-2369 [cell]

Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Progressive Christianity Study Group

A. Mondays 7 - 8 pm in the Library

B. Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm in the Parlour

Book Club

Tue, Apr 4th, 12 noon The Hare with Amber Eyes, by Edmund de Waal

Quilt Group

Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room

Choir Practice

Sunday at 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

The Inaugural Meeting of the Spiritual Guidance Committee will be held on Tuesday March 21st 7:30 pm in the library (postponed from Tuesday March 14).

Registration for **Youth Forum and Intermediates at Conference** is now online! Deadline to register is March 31st. Woolastook Presbytery & Forest Hill United generously offer funding to participants. To register for YF: <http://marconf.ca/youth-forum-registration/> To register for IAC: <http://marconf.ca/intermediates->

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Free income tax clinics will be held for people of lower income from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Friday March 31, April 7, 21, and 28.

For information call Mary Grant 459-8525

Forest Hill Book Club will meet on Tuesday April 4th at 12 noon in the church parlour. The April book is The Hare with Amber Eyes. By Edmund de Waal.

THE LENTEN CHALLENGE: The Outreach Committee is issuing a challenge to the congregation. We are calling it the Lenten Challenge. Each person can start on the first day of Lent and take something from their house each day. This could be clothes, small appliances, linen, or any such item. Please do this with intention. Each day find something you no longer use or need, and place it in a bag or box. While you do this please say a word of gratitude for the plenty that brought it to you and for being able to use it. Then say a word of blessing to send it on its way and for the person who will acquire it and use it. After Easter you can take it to the charity of your choice. If you would prefer that someone else take please let us know and we will happily take it away for you.

Storm Policy Reminder: In the event of a serious storm on a Sunday morning, a decision will be made by 8 a.m. as to whether a cancellation is necessary. If a service is cancelled, a message will be placed on the church answering machine, sent out via email, and passed on to CBC radio.

Community Events

The UCW of St. Paul's United Church, on the corner of George and York Streets, will be hosting a BRIDGE LUNCHEON, on Saturday, April 8th beginning at 12 noon. Tables are \$48.00. Contact Isabel to register at 459-7116.

UCW Bridge Luncheon Book your table now for our upcoming Bridge Luncheon. **Thursday, May 11th, at 12 noon.** At the

Nashwaaksis United Church gym. Tables are \$40.00. Contact Connie – 472-4744

Minute for Mission Racial Justice

Our gifts for Mission & Service support racial justice. Let us hear a story about this important work.

Working toward racial justice in church and society is a lifelong journey. We must be open to learning from each other, with each other, and with the Spirit, so that we continue to break down barriers and build just institutions.

We need to work together for racial justice within our church. The United Church's online racial justice workshops are one step on this journey. Because we believe that we are a "whole people of God" with a "priesthood of all believers," racial justice workshops are open to everyone in the United Church.

These racial justice workshops help participants engage in self-examination around White privilege and internalized racism, as well as analyze the systemic nature of racism in the church and wider society. They offer our ministry leaders tools to begin or continue the work of racial justice in local ministry contexts.

We sing thanksgiving that our gifts for Mission & Service encourage continuous learning and provide resources for justice and right relationships.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

