Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017 at 10 am

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.
Our worship leader is **Rev. Bob Jones,**
Our music director is **Diane Robinson**,
and the **FHUC Choir**.
Our greeters this morning are **Libby Cassidy** and **Brian Cassidy**,
our Sunday School teacher is **May Houston**,
our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**,
and our tellers are **Diane Robinson** and **Jean Fisher**.

At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolostoqey 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.

This mornings' bulletin is dedicated by Joan Mitchell
in memory of her father Jim Mitchell.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent 3:

One: God delights us with wonder and blessing each morning
All: God brings smiles to our faces and joy to our sleepy souls.
One: Let our delight burst forth with the birth of new life today.
All: Let our candle of joy reflect our desire for inward happiness.
Light three candles.

****Introit:** ***(Sung Together)*** **Hope is a Candle by Linnea Good**

Verse 3
Joy is a candle on our journey.
Joy is the swinging and the leap.
Under the clouded skies of winter,
This laughing flame of Joy we'll keep.

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: The candle is lit.
We have settled ourselves in worship.
Let us awaken to the presence of God.
Come, let us worship.
All: From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

(Isaiah 64:4)

One: We wait for Christmas, for the celebration of our Saviour's arrival, yet our worship is now. We wait with hope, yet God's hope breaks new around us. We wait with action, loving God and one another,

All: for we are the people of God!

Elaine Bidgood Sveet, First Lutheran, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota.

Gathering Prayer: ***(Spoken Together)***

Without you, God,
Our joy is a bit like a messed up
recipe for Christmas cookies.
It is something we try to make
for ourselves and by ourselves
but we do not know all the ingredients
and we do not get the mix right.
Visit us now in this place;
fill our hearts occupy our minds;
guide our feeling and our thinking
until we learn how to rejoice,
filled with true joy,
always in your goodness and love.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
John Moses, Aylesford U.C., Aylesford, NS

****Opening Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts MV 12

Exploring

Story Time

****Song of Praise:** Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus VU 2

After the first verse the children and teachers will leave for Sunday School

Words from Our Bible: **Mary Grant**

Isaiah 61:1-4
Psalm 126 VU 850
John 1:6-8 19:28

One: In these sacred words we find joy for our lives.

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child VU46

Message: Real Joy

****Hymn of Reflection:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

Celebrating

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** ***(Sung Together)*** ***VU 87***

I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love
You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

****Prayer After Giving**

Prayers of the People

Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen
Lord's Prayer from #914 VU

****Closing Hymn:** Hark the Glad Sound VU 29

****Sharing the Light**

****Blessing**

****Choral Response:** ***(Sung Together)***

Angels we have heard on High
Gloria in excelsis deo x2

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship!

Printed sermons and large print bulletins are available from our greeters for anyone who might find either useful.

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. Bob Jones, C.D., B.TH.**
Office hours Monday morning, and can be reached at
(506) 451-8165 [home] (506) 476-8020 [cell]

Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Dec 17:	**6:30 pm Carol singing in the neighbourhood starting at the church**
Book Club	Tues Jan 2nd 12 noon Do Not Say We Have Nothing By Madeleine Thien
Quilt Group	Mondays 10:00 am -12:00 pm Upper Room
Choir Practice	Sunday at 9:30 and 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

Christmas Eve service the evening at 7:00p.m. Carol singing to start at 6:45. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

CHURCH CALENDARS are now available. They make good Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers at $8.00 each. For your copy see Jennifer after service or call 454 2829.

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 am. We also post cancellations to the radio and to our Facebook page (on the left side of our main web page).

The FHUC Book Club will meet on Tuesday Jan 2nd at 12 noon in the church parlour. The January book is "Do Not Say We Have Nothing" by Madeleine Thien.

AN INVITATION, you are invited to join Jennifer on 6th. January 2018 at Forest Hill United Church from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. to celebrate her birthday. Best wishes only.

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, 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 could be added to the Chart.

Ushers/Greeters needed: Please check your schedule to see if you are available for one or more Sundays to help out with set up and greeting our congregation on Sunday mornings. Signup sheet is on the back table. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me. Many thanks. Lorna McKnight

Minute For Missions/ Supporting Local Churches

Our gifts for Mission & Service offer support to congregations. Let us hear a story from central Newfoundland.

Worship is at 3:00 p.m. at Northern Arm Pastoral Charge, a four-point pastoral charge. Its members feel this is a convenient time for worshippers to gather. It also gives folks of other traditions who are curious a good opportunity to check the church out.

Northern Arm is a warm, welcoming pastoral charge of The United Church of Canada on the beautiful Bay of Exploits. Worship is held in one of its beautiful churches each week.

The charge receives a Mission Support Grant funded by Mission & Service. At the end of each year, if any funds are left over, Northern Arm makes a donation to Mission & Service in the spirit of gratitude to pay it forward.

We sing thanksgiving for the giving heart of communities of faith whose gifts for Mission & Service change lives and offer hope!