

Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Transfiguration Sunday
February 26, 2017 at 10 am

“The mission of the Church is to be a vessel where transformation can happen. Where lives may be changed by the Presence of God...That transformation isn’t a small thing. It’s not a fresh coat of paint. It’s not even an upgraded operating system. It’s metamorphosis. It’s wholesale change. From the bottom up. From the inside out.”

Rick Morley, Episcopalian Priest
“Overcoming Fear” [blog post]

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 greeters this morning are **Brian Cassidy** and **Libby Cassidy**,

our Sunday School teachers are **Angela Nelson**, **Joan Mitchell**

and **Mary Grant**,

our hospitality host is **May Houston**,

and our tellers are **Bob Fisher** and **Lorna McKnight**.

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!

This morning’s bulletin is dedicated
in loving memory of **Don Abbott** by his family.



Gathering

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

Prelude What a Wonderful World
by George Weiss and Bob Thiele

Welcoming the Light

****Introit:** *(Sung Together)*

#8 MV

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: Let’s go up the mountain.

All: **Let’s go up to the place where the land meets the sky,
where the earth touches the heavens.**

One: Let’s go to the place of meeting,

All: **to the place of mists,**

One: to the place of voices and conversations,

All: **to the place of listening.**

One: Off we go!

By William Loader (edited), 2001

Gathering Prayer:

One: O God, you are the Light that is brighter than all lights
and in you we believe.

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All: We believe in the light that shone at the beginning
and called into existence creatures of the light;
a light that guided Abraham and Sarah
to a new land and mighty destiny;
a light that illuminated David's poems
and flooded Isaiah's proclamations.

One: We believe in a light that shone in Bethlehem and
brought shepherds running with joy,
a light that drew Galilean crowds to hear of divine love,
a light that enveloped the meek, the poor,
the sick and the forgotten.

All: May we celebrate that light today -
the a dazzling radiance on the mount of revelation.

One: For in a Light brighter than all lights, we believe.

All: Amen.

Adapted from "I Believe" by Bruce D. Prewer in *Brief Prayers for Busy People*

****Opening Hymn:** #145 MV Draw the Circle Wide

Exploring

First Reading: Matthew 17:1-9 *The Transfiguration*

Story Time

****Song of Praise:** #248 VU When Long Before Time

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

Words from Our Bible: Jennifer Abbott

Psalm 99 Page 819 VU (with Refrain)
2 Peter 1:16-21 *Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory*

One: This is the Word of God to guide us on our journey.

All: Thanks be to God!

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Special Music: Jerusalem, AD 33 by Lani Smith

Images from Our World: A Scene from *The Wizard of Oz*

Message: "From Black and White to Technicolour"

****Hymn of Reflection:** #98 MV Like a River of Tears

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** (*Sung Together*) #191 MV

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.

**Prayer After Giving

Prayers of Our Community:

One: Stir up in us, Loving God,
the desire and the determination to glorify you
in every prayer and in all our relationships.

All: Transfigure not only our own lives but also the lives
of the millions with whom we share this planet.

One: Transfigure each ordinary church-goer.

All: Dispel discouragement and self-doubt,
self-righteousness and arrogance.

One: Transfigure those who preach the Gospel.

All: Enlarge their understanding
and expand their capacity to love.

One: Transfigure the hopes of the down-trodden
and disadvantaged.

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**All: Give a new compassion
to the strong and the prosperous.**

One: Transfigure the expectations of the young.

**All: Disperse the vanity and indulgence
with which this society indoctrinates them.**

One: Transfigure the values and goals of political leaders.

**All: Inspire them to act justly, love mercy,
and to walk humbly with you.**

One: Transfigure the anguish of those who tremble or weep,
suffer or die today.

All: Let the valley of sorrows become an avenue of hope.

One: By carrying these concerns in our hearts,
may we be beautifully transfigured,
allowing your glory to shine through us.

All: Amen.

From Bruce D. Prewer's "Transfiguration Prayer for Others"

The Prayer That Jesus Taught *(Spoken Together)*

Our Father, our Mother, our Holy One,
may your kingdom come,
and your will be done here on earth.

May we find this day the bread we need
and may we feel forgiveness for our missteps
and forgive others freely for theirs.

May we walk away from temptation
and focus on good.

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.
Now and for ever. Amen.

Paraphrased by Ali Anningson, 2017

****Closing Hymn:** #232 VU Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

****Sharing the Light**

****Blessing:**

One: We go forth, prepared to embrace God's presence
wherever we find it. And:

All: when glory comes, may we open our eyes to see it;

One: when glory shows up, may we let ourselves be overcome,
not with fear, but by the love it bears;

**All: when glory shines, may we bring it back with us
all the way,**

One: all the way,

All: all the way down. Amen.

Adapted from Jan Richardson's "When Glory: A Blessing for Transfiguration Sunday"

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

#221 MV

**I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, lead me home.**

Sung Twice

Postlude: Somewhere Over The Rainbow by Frank Arlen

*Please join us for coffee and conversation directly following the
service.*

OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
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Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Shrove Tuesday Supper February 28, 5:30

World Day of Prayer Service Friday, March 3 at 7 pm

Quilt Group Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room

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

Shrove Tuesday Supper: Please join us this coming Tuesday February 28th for Shrove Tuesday supper of pancakes, sausages and baked beans. Suppers will be served starting at 5:30, but if you can't make it right on the dot, come along anyway. The free meal is put on by the Christian Development Committee, but donations to help defray the cost would be gratefully accepted.

Next Sunday, March 5, we will welcome Bev Sharpe as worship leader while Ali enjoys some vacation time with her family.

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-conference-registration/>

World Day of Prayer Service: This year's worship service will be held here at Forest Hill United. Please come out and support this event. The materials have been prepared by the women of the Philippines and the theme is "Am I Being Unfair to You?" Time of fellowship to follow. March 3, 2017 at 7:00PM. No Storm Date.

8 Points Study: Throughout Lent (beginning the week of March 12) and possibly into the Easter season, Rev. Ali is planning on offering a small group study on The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity. A study guide will be provided and, with its help, we will work our way through several of these points.

Whether you find yourself connecting with this newer way of seeing faith or you are curious what it is all about upon hearing about the recent controversy with Rev. Gretta Vosper and the United Church, this might be of interest to you.

If you are interested, please let Rev. Ali know right away so she can determine the best time for the group to meet.

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 Women's Inter-Church Council is having four World Day of Prayer Services for 2017 in the Fredericton Area. The World Day of Prayers has been prepared by the Women of the Philippines with the theme "Am I Being Unfair To You?"

This service is a Public event open for everyone. In some services they will show a CD of the Philippine or have a guest speaker. The service is approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour with a reception in the hall afterward for fellowship.

Please come and join us on Friday, March 3, 2017 with Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and in 2,000 communities across Canada who will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in Solidarity with the people of The Philippines through the World Day of Prayer.

Northside / Maryville: St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, 1 William Street on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 7:00PM. Storm Date: Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 3:00PM.

Forest Hill/Lincoln: Forest Hill United Church, 45 Kimble Court off Forest Hill Road, on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 7:00PM. No Storm Date.

Hanwell/New Maryland: Sts John and Paul Church, New Maryland on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 7:00PM. No Storm date.

Southside: St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church, 120 Regent Street on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 2:00PM. No Storm Date.

Contact name and phone number: Debbie Heustis: 472-2916 and Ann Raper : 457-0164

Kiwanis Delights: Sunday, February 26th, Delta Hotel. Doors open at 6:30. Delights include a draw for Diamond Ring valued at \$1,000, a Fashion Show sponsored by Hospice Boutique, a Dessert Buffet, and a Silent Auction. Tickets are available from Kiwanis members (454-1298), at the Hospice Boutique on Prospect St., and Westminster Books on King St. Monies raised support Kiwanis Fredericton community programs and Hospice Fredericton.

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a “Jig’s Dinner-Corn Beef” on Friday, March 17th. 4 – 6 p.m. Adult: \$15 and Child: \$3. Please call 457-1951 to reserve your tickets.

Minute for Mission The Church in China

Our gifts for Mission & Service support global partnership and theological engagement. Let us hear the story of the United Church delegation to the church in China.

We give thanks that The United Church of Canada answered an invitation from Mission & Service partner The China Christian Council to witness together and accompany one another in God’s mission. The group of 22 United Church people from across Canada saw first-hand the experience of the Chinese church.

Moderator Jordan Cantwell led the delegation. “This visit opens a window for deepened church-to-church engagement and presents an opportunity for the United Church to understand China through encounters with Chinese Christians,” she said. The visit also recognized the existing partnership between our churches, building on a long history of mission and ministry together in China. It was another step in continuing our faithful journeys toward unity, justice, and peace.

Delegates saw the blessings of the church in China and the challenges it is addressing. They shared from their unique perspective the challenges and opportunities of the United Church.

“We return with the friendship and blessing of the Chinese church and a deepened commitment to sharing God’s great works in our diverse and varied Canadian contexts,” said participant Betsy Anderson.

We sing thanksgiving that Mission & Service helps build relationship and partnership for God’s mission of justice and peace.