



Forest Hill United Church
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'
 1st Sunday in Advent
 Hope Sunday
 December 3, 2023 11:30 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU 1

Welcome, Announcements & Acknowledgement:

Land Acknowledgement

At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqiyik (wolas-to-qiyik) land.

Declaration of a Safe Place

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.

Lighting the Advent Candle

**Introit: Hope is a Candle Linnea Good

**Hope is a candle on our journey.
 Hope is the travel and the end.
 All through the frosty fields of winter,
 This dancing flame of Hope we'll tend.
 For we are a people of a Story
 Of stars that sing and Love that cries,
 And though these nights are getting longer,
 The path is lit before our eyes.
 Hope is a candle on our journey.
 Hope is the travel and the end.
 All through the frosty fields of winter,
 This dancing flame of Hope we'll tend.**

Call to Worship:

Hope is indeed the candle on our journey.

The promise of Hope draws us together in this place

Hope is a gift that lasts us through our life journey

The promise of Hope draws us here to worship.

Let us worship together as a community of faith.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

O loving God who gives us hope throughout our lives. We gather together today to prepare ourselves for the coming of your son, Jesus.

Each year we journey through each Sunday of Advent focusing on one of your gifts. Today we gather to worship and praise you. We gather to have our hope in humanity renewed. Amen

**Opening Hymn: Come and Find the Quiet Centre VU 374

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Parker J. Palmer

**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 to 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.**

**Hymn of Praise: All Earth is Waiting VU 5
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

Understanding God, we sing the words of a life we hope to lead.

We sing of being open furrows awaiting your message.

We sing of crying out for justice.

Yet we fall short partly because we have so many activities which encroach on our always being open to you.

We know that injustice surrounds us.

There is so much that needs to be done that we become paralyzed because we don't know where to start, or how to balance so many needs.

You know us and understand us God, and we need to remind ourselves that we bring the hope.

You do not expect us to do everything,
but you do expect us to do something to bring hope to those who feel their situations are hopeless.

We bring to you now, our own concerns in silent prayer.

Time for Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Responsive Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 VU 794 Part 1

Mark 13: 24-37

One: In this is the word of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: God of Still Waiting MV 20

Reflection:

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts:

Sung Response: Creator God, You Gave Us Life MV 27 vs 3

**When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.**

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: Spirit God, Be Our Breath MV 150 vs 3

**Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.**

**Closing Hymn: Hope Shines as a Solitary Star MV 220

Commissioning and Benediction:

**Choral Amen: Hope Be With You (sing twice) MV 215

**Hope be with you, hope forever,
hope be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
Hope, hope, hope.**

Postlude: On Jordan's Bank VU 20

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Mary Grant, LLWL
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – May Houston
Tellers – Jean Fisher, Mary Grant
Hospitality – Jennifer Abbott
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

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