

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



3rd Sunday of Creation
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023 11:30 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Come Touch Our Hearts MV 12

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 of the Christ Candle

**Introit: Before the Earth Had Yet Begun VU 301 Vs 3

**Thus when creation's God did take
the clay of earth our form to make,
God willed that to our race belong
the gifts of music, word, and song.**

Call to Worship:

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
**The testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the
innocent.**

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
**The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to
the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
**The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous
altogether.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my
redeemer.

(Psalm 19)

Opening Prayer: (All)

**Your faithfulness and steadfast love surround us, O God,
providing a shield against whatever would harm us. Jesus
Christ has come to show us your way. He has delivered us
from death to walk humbly with you. We gather this day to
sing your praises and to hear your commandments. Look
with favour upon us as we pray. Amen**

**Opening Hymn: God of the Bible MV 28

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Sherri J Weinberg

God - heart of the world:
revealed through every aspect of creation:
understood through our awareness.
May we honour the holiness of creation and act accordingly
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.
May we always be thankful for the food we eat
and the friends we have.
May we forgive those who transgress against us
and be forgiven for our own.
In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat
and not be compromised by hesitation.
Through our freedom, may your justice
be seen and heard and experienced
forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise: This is God's Wondrous World VU 296
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Confession:

O God, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. We are prone to disobedience in spite of your law. We behave foolishly in the light of your testimony. Your statutes illuminate how we treat others unjustly. Your commandments reveal our wayward behaviour. Christ is our strength and the one who redeems us. Through him, have mercy and forgive us our sin. Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

As Paul has written: "we do not live to ourselves alone. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." To be at one with Christ is to live in assurance that our sins are forgiven.

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Romans 14:5-12

Matthew 18:21-35

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: For the Beauty of the Earth VU 226
to the tune VU 81 As With Gladness

Reflection:

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

As we gather in your house accept the gifts that we offer as response to your atoning sacrifice and use them to teach others of your reconciling love. Amen

Sung Response: Grateful

adapted MV 182

**Grateful for the life you give us,
Thankful for your Holy Son
Joyful in your Spirit flowing
Over all, O God of love.
Grateful for the bread of Heaven,
Thankful for your Holy Word,
Joyful in your mercy flowing,
We will Praise you.**

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: When Hands Reach Out MV 169 vs 1

**When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.**

**Closing Hymn: God Says MV 172

Commissioning and Blessing:

**Choral Amen: Go Now in Peace – Don Besig and Nancy Price

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Postlude: Morning Has Broken VU 409

OFFICE
(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Worship Leader – Reverend Lisa Greenwood
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Annemarie Manson
Tellers – William Hughes and Robert Christie
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.
