



Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



12th Sunday after Pentecost
Date August 31, 2025 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

VU 271

Welcome and Announcements:

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: Morning Has Broken

VU 409

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!
Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!**

Opening Prayer:

**Spirit of Generosity,
we come to you with hearts
overflowing with gratitude
for your abundant creation.
As we awaken each morning,
help us to remember this day is a gift,
this breath is grace, this life a wonder.
Remind us with every flower we see,
every act of kindness,
every moment of connection
to something so much bigger than ourselves,
to whisper thank you.
Cultivate in us a sense of awe
and trust in your lavish grace.
Let each word of thanks we offer
expand our hearts
until delight inhabits us
and we know love as our sustenance.**

(by Christine Valters Paintner)

****Opening Hymn:** For the Beauty of the Earth

VU 226

Prayer of Self Reflection:

We come today into the Presence of the Holy, remembering the Holy is always with us, in the beauty of the Earth, and in the eyes of friends and strangers. As we reflect on that Presence today, may we lean into how we can be part of the Presence in our hurting world today.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Words of Assurance:

By grace we have been saved through faith. But not by our own doing. It is the gift of God. Amen. (Eph 2:8)

A Story for the Young at Heart

****Hymn of Praise:** Take My Life VU 506 to the tune for VU 338

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Joan Mitchell

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15, 16, CEV

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

All: Thanks be to God

Message: Risking Hospitality in a Broken World
<https://jessicahetherington.substack.com/>

Special Music:

Responding

A New Creed – VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Presentation of our Gifts:

Sung Response: I the Lord of Sea and Sky
(Verse 1, and refrain) VU 509

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Prayer of Dedication: (together)

Here we are, Sacred Presence. Use us, and open our
hearts to those in need. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer: 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.

We Go Out As God's People

****Blessing Hymn:** Open My Eyes that I May See VU 371

**** Blessing:**

**** Choral Amen:** Don't Be Afraid MV 90
 Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
 my love is stronger than your fear.
 Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
 and I have promised,
 promised to be always near.

Postlude: God Be With You Till We Meet Again VU 422

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Worship Leader – Reverend Alice Finnamore

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Today we thank
Jennifer Abbott, Mary Anne Blakney,
Robert Christie, Jean Fisher and May Houston,
who **Greet Us** each Sunday.

Music Team– Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

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



<Our Cooperative Ministry Partner>
Gibson Memorial United Church

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