

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



1st Sunday of Advent Hope
November 27, 2022 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: What Child is This? VU 74

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 Christ Candle

Lighting of the First Advent Candle - The Candle of Hope

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. We light this candle to declare that hope shines even in the shadows of darkness and despair.

We hope that the light will lead us to new paths of justice and righteousness.

We light this candle in the hope that we can be instruments of peace and wholeness in the weeks to come.

We light this candle to reveal the Way of Jesus, the Hope of the world.

Adapted from Wanda Winfield, Gathering A/C/E 2022/23 page 69.

Lighting of the First Candle:

**Introit:

VU 7 vs1

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Call to Worship:

On this first Sunday of Advent, we come to worship, seeking the light of Christ in our lives and world.

We know that God's Spirit is with us in every moment, in every task we do, and in every breath we take.

Today we celebrate the many ways that God fosters a spirit of hope in the world.

Today we pray that God's light will shine into our lives and community this Advent, bringing hope and strength to all.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

Eternal God,

**You have given us the gift of life,
and stand by us in times of joy and sorrow.**

In a tired and violent world, you are hope.

In a hectic and busy world, you are peace.

In a cold and troubled world, you are comfort and strength.

Through our worship today, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

**Make us one in worship and service,
so that the world will see your hope at work in us and through us, making all things new. Amen**

**Opening Hymn: All Earth is Waiting VU5

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: paraphrased by Sarah Dylan Breuer.

**Loving Creator we honour you,
and we honour all that you have made.**

Renew the whole world in the image of your love.

**Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.
Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For your love is the only power,
the only home, the only honour we need,
in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise: Holy, Holy , Holy, Lord God Almighty VU 315
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

Caring God, we gather in prayer as we have been taught, and
as we have done over the years in this your church.

**Through the Word and Way of Jesus, you show us how to
live, love and serve.**

We do our best to follow, but sometimes need to be awakened
from our preoccupations to glimpse the promises of hope that
can be seen.

**Sometimes we need help to glimpse what can be done, and
to focus on what is possible.**

(A time of silent prayer)

**Abide with us during this Advent season, and help us face
each day and each challenge with the strength of your love
and the guidance of your Spirit. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Matthew 24: 36-44

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

All: Thanks be to God

**Hymn of Reflection: Three Things I Promise

MV 176

Reflection: "Hope in Troubled Times"

Special Music: What a Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response:

MV 27 Verse 3 abridged

**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 Our Community:

Sung Response:

Take, O Take Me as I Am.

MV 85

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be,
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

**Closing Hymn:

May the God of Hope Go With Us

VU 424

Commissioning and Sharing the Light:

**Choral Amen:

Hope Be With You

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:

Deck the Halls J. C. Hughes

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Rev. Dr. Ian Manson
Pastoral Care – Rev. Ian Manson 506-333-8318 and
Diane Robinson 459-8779

Usher – Annemarie Manson
Teller – Jennifer Abbott and May Houston
Hospitality – Jean Fisher
Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych
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