

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



3rd Sunday of Advent Joy
December 4, 2022 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: This Season Will Never Grow Old by Rita MacNeil

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

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

The Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. We light this candle for the joy found in the earth, the oceans, the skies, and all that lives.

We light this candle in thanksgiving for the joy that we find in creation.

We light this candle in celebration of Jesus, the Light of the World, who reveals God's grace and goodness.

We light this candle in the hope that our days can be filled with joy, and that we can also bring joy to others.

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

Lighting of the Third Candle:

**Introit:

VU 7 vs3

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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:

Arise and be bold, for good news and glad tidings are here.

We discern a new and better future, where justice and peace prevail.

We imagine a world where exiles and strangers find a home.

The way to a more just and joyous future awaits. Let us worship the One who leads us onward.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**God of joy and justice,
You are our strength and our song, and we praise you for the wonders of this world and beyond it.
You make deserts bloom and refresh the earth.
You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit, and draw close to those who walk alone.
With your care for the vulnerable in our hearts, we praise you with joyous song this day.
Receive our prayers and praise this morning, and fill our hearts with your grace and goodness.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: My Soul Cries Out

MV 120

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: What Child is This VU 74
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 myths, stories, and traditions you guide and
sustain us on our way.**
You awaken us from our preoccupations to glimpse the
promises of new life that you make possible.
**Help us embrace the moments of joy that come our way,
and ponder how we may be a source of joy for others.**

(A time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:
Matthew 11: 2-11

One: In this is the word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God

**Hymn of Reflection: She Walked in the Summer VU 12

Reflection "Hope in Troubled Times"

Special Music: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord by Stephen Schwartz

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 Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Sung Response: 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: Joy is Now in Every Place VU 45

Commissioning and Blessing:

**Choral Amen: MV 215
**Joy be with you, joy forever,
joy be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
Joy, joy, joy.**

Postlude: Go, Tell It on the Mountain VU 43

OFFICE

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Teller – William Hughes and Robert Christie
Hospitality – Annemarie Manson
Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

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