

Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



First Sunday of Lent
March 5, 2017 at 10 am

We welcome Bev Sharpe as our visiting minister this morning and know that our time together will be refreshing and inspiring.

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here. As we journey through this reflective Lenten time together, we will be exploring the role of community. May you feel God's presence here.

Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for all people to gather regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, or sexual orientation. You are welcome here!

Our greeters this morning are **Joe Rideout and Lorna McKnight**,
our tellers are **William Hughes and Robert Christie**,
our hospitality host is **May Houston**,
our Sunday School teacher is **May Houston**,
and our music director is **Alex Good**,
who leads us with the assistance of the **FHUC Choir**.

Gathering

At the **, you are asked to rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude:

Extinguishing the Light

During Lent, we prepare for Jesus' death & resurrection. We extinguish candles to remember how Jesus - the light of the world - was rejected.

****Introit:** *(Sung Together)* #14 MV

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there. [Repeat 3 times]**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: As we join here today, we do so in the knowledge of the trials Jesus was to endure.

All: The fasting in the wilderness, the hardship overcome.

One: The temptations, the pain and fear.

All: We come a Lenten people, eager for the spirit to move in us.

One: We acknowledge the darkness, knowing it will bring the great light into our lives.

All: We seek the comfort we will receive.

Gathering Prayer: *(Spoken Together)*

O Lord God, as we gather here today, we do so with anticipation and wonder. We fear the darkness not sure of what to expect in it. As we begin this journey of Lent, we are aware of the cross and the reality that it brings and we pray for your Spirit in us. Amen

****Opening Hymn:** VU 114 Forty Days and Forty Nights

Exploring

Story Time 'Penny Boxes'

****Hymn:** VU 602 Blest Be the Ties

*After the first verse is sung, children, youth and teachers
are invited to go to Sunday School.*

Words from Our Bible:

Mary Grant

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32 VU p759
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

One: This is the Word of God for our community.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music: If We Will Seek The ord by Don Besig

Quiet Reflection

"We know by a kind of instinct that peace lies in the heart of
darkness. In the wilderness of soul. Something prompts us to keep
still, to trust in God, to be quiet and listen to God's voice"
from Thomas Merton-New Seeds of Contemplation

Message: Sin, Temptation, Who, What, Me?

****Hymn of Reflection:** VU 82 A Light Is Gleaming

Responding

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** *(Sung Together)*

#79 MV, Refrain

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.**

Offertory Prayer *(Spoken Together)*

**Loving God, we offer here today our tithes and offerings. Take and
them with our talents to bring comfort and good for all those who
are in need in this community and beyond. In Jesus's name, Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus: *(Spoken Together)*

Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.

For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

From United Church of Christ, 1995

****Closing Hymn:** VU 570 Jesus's Hands Were Kind Hands

****Blessing**

****Choral Response:** *(Sung Together)*

#216 MV, Refrain

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I will be faithful, loyal and true.**

Postlude:

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OFFICE HOURS
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Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
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Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**
Mondays to Thursdays from 9 am - Noon
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Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Forest Hill Book Club March 7 The Fifth Gospel by Ian Caldwell.

Quilt Group Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room

Choir Practice Sunday at 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

Forest Hill Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at Noon in the Parlour to discuss The Fifth Gospel by Ian Caldwell. All are welcome.

Our clocks change forward 1 hour this coming Sunday, March 12.

The Spiritual Guidance Committee will meet Tuesday March 14, 7:30p.m., in the Library. All members of the former Worship Committee, Pastoral Care Committee and Outreach Committee are invited to attend.

*Registration for Youth Forum and Intermediates at Conference is now online! Deadline to register is **March 31st**. Woolastook Presbytery & Forest Hill United generously offer funding to participants. To register for YF: <http://marconf.ca/youth-forum-registration/> To register for*

IAC: <http://marconf.ca/intermediates-conference-registration/>

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Lenten Small Group Study: During the season of Lent, we will be gathering to study The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity, which are listed here: <https://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/> Two groups will be meeting - one on Mondays from 7-8 pm (beginning March 13) and another on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 pm (beginning March 14). If you are interested in attending, contact Rev. Ali at revalianningson@gmail.com or 292-2369 and she will provide you with a copy of the study guide.

THE LENTEN CHALLENGE: The Outreach Committee is issuing a challenge to the congregation. We are calling it the Lenten Challenge. Each person can start on the first day of Lent and take something from their house each day. This could be clothes, small appliances, linen, or any such item. Please do this with intention. Each day find something you no longer use or need, and place it in a bag or box. While you do this please say a word of gratitude for the plenty that brought it to you and for being able to use it. Then say a word of blessing to send it on its way and for the person who will acquire it and use it. After Easter you can take it to the charity of your choice. If you would prefer that someone else take please let us know and we will happily take it away for you.

Storm Policy Reminder: In the event of a serious storm on a Sunday morning, a decision will be made by 8 a.m. as to whether a cancellation is necessary. If a service is cancelled, a message will be placed on the church answering machine, sent out via email, and passed on to CBC radio.

Community Events

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a "Jig's Dinner-Corn Beef" on Friday, March 17th. 4 – 6 p.m. Adult: \$15 and Child: \$3. Please call 457-1951 to reserve your tickets.

The New Maryland United Church, NM Lions Club & NM Fire Dept are having a **Fundraising Breakfast & Silent Auction** at the New Maryland Rec. Centre on **Saturday Mar 18th from 8am – 12Noon**. All proceeds are to support **RON TUPLING & FAMILY**. **Ron** is a double lung transplant recipient.

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Minute for Mission Equipping a Child for School

Our gifts for Mission & Service support education. Let us hear a story from one of our global Mission & Service partners who works toward full inclusion of all children in Indian society.

For most Canadian children a day off school is a cause for celebration. But for many children in India, an education is something they can only dream of.

India remains a divided society with a clearly defined caste system. People in the lowest caste experience widespread discrimination and are often limited in the kinds of jobs open to them. They are usually relegated to low-paying and unstable work. Most families in these castes, many of them headed by women, live below the poverty line. Poor families struggle to survive. For many, survival depends on all members of the family working, including children. The most basic of school supplies are beyond their means, as are school uniforms and fees. In spite of government support programs, the school dropout rate for children living in poverty continues to increase. Imagine being stopped from continuing your education for the sake of a school bag, a notebook, a pen, and a geometry set.

Recently, the Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation supported 520 children living in poverty to continue their secondary school education. Thanks to this support, 302 girls and 218 boys received basic school supplies, and their uniforms and school fees were covered. We sing thanksgiving that, through working with others, Mission & Service changes the dream of an education into a reality for children in India.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in

making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

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