

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



Palm Sunday
April 9, 2017 at 10 am

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.

Our worship leaders are Rev. Ali Anningson

and our music director is Alex Good,

who leads us with the assistance of the FHUC Choir.

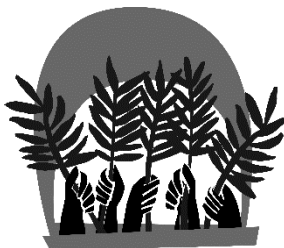
Our greeter this morning is Jennifer Abbott,

our Sunday School teachers are Mary Grant, & Margie Roxborough,

our hospitality host is Jennifer Abbott,

and our tellers are William Hughes and Robert Christie.

Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for all people to gather regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. All are welcome here!



Gathering In

At the **, please rise in body or in spirit.

There are moments when everything changes. Time stands still and, as your mind races forward, you realize it will never be the same. They are often unexpected. Sometimes they happen when we are all alone. Sometimes in the midst of a crowd. For Jesus and his followers, the entry into Jerusalem, the waving palms and gathering crowds, marked one of those moments. For better or worse, from this day forward, nothing would be the same.

Prelude: The Old Rugged Cross by George Bernard

**Introit: *(Sung Together)*

#59 MV, v.2

**Songs of joy sing out to God. Song of joy sing out to God.
Waving our branches, we praise you, O God.
Songs of joy sing out to God.**

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: Like the crowd offered palms for rejoicing,
All: **like those who offered their cloaks on the ground,**
One: we come offering our whole selves,
All: **bringing to this community
all that we have and all that we are.**
One: And it is in our offering of being present today
that God is found.
All: **Let us gather together in the holiness of one another.**
One: Let us gather in the strength of the crowd
to watch this story unfold.

By Ali Anningson, 2017

Gathering Prayer:

One: May the crowds with palms waving remind us that
All: we are still ready to identify and welcome the humble and self-giving persons of our world.

One: May the disciples surrounding Jesus remind us that
All: we are still ready to support and advance the faith community.

One: May the powerful leaders out to destroy Jesus remind us that
All: we are still ready to name the powerful and those who have no time for the suffering.

One: May the hard road to the cross remind us that
All: we are still ready to walk the challenging way, knowing that our loving God is never separate from us.

One: In our moments of joy, in the rough and resting times, God is our companion.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

By David Sparks in *Gathering L/E* 2017

****Opening Hymn:** #123 VU Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Listening Together

Welcoming the Darkness

Words from Our Bible: Jean/Bob Fisher

Psalm 72 - Parts 1 & 2 Pages 790-791
Matthew 21:1-11 *Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem*

One: This is the Word of God for our listening ears.
All: Thanks be to God!

Story Time

Palm Parade Hymn: #646 VU We Are Marching in the Light of God
(repeated)

*After the hymn is finished,
children, youth and teachers leave for Sunday School.*



Words from Our World: Excerpt from “Protesting Holy Week”
by David R. Henson

Special Music: We Shall Overcome (Song for Palestine)
by Roger Waters

Message: “Palms and Placards”

****Hymn of Reflection:** #127 MV I Saw the Rich Ones

Going Forth

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** (*Sung Together*) #227 VU, v. 4 (edited)

**For each perfect gift sublime
to our world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.
God of all, up high we raise,
this our act of grateful praise.**

****Prayer After Giving**

Prayers of Our Community

The Prayer That Jesus Taught: *(Spoken Together)*

Our Father, our Mother, our Holy One,
may your kingdom come,
and your will be done here on earth.
May we find this day the bread we need
and may we feel forgiveness for our missteps
and forgive others freely for theirs.
May we walk away from temptation
and focus on good.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.
Now and for ever. Amen.

Paraphrase by Ali Anningson, 2017

****Closing Hymn:** #124 VU He Came Riding on a Donkey

****Blessing:**

One: Palm Sunday is found:
*Left: whenever we are serving a noble and unpopular cause
with selfless devotion,
holding to the ideals of truth and justice;*

Centre: whenever we are seeking to uplift the fallen,
to comfort the broken-hearted,
to strengthen and encourage the weak and hopeless;

*Right: whenever we are working bravely and persistently
in the face of abuse and criticism
to establish more equitable relations in the world;*

**All: whenever we are sacrificing our lives or lifestyles
on behalf on what we believe
to be the service of love for all humanity.**

One: Go from this place, waving your palms, knowing that the
God of justice, the God of love, the God of inclusivity
goes with you. In fact, know that this God goes *in* you.
We will carry the holy presence wherever you go.
This is our blessing.

By Rex Hunt (last paragraph added by Ali)

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

#216 MV

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

Postlude: On the Willows by Stephen Schwartz

*Please join us for coffee and conversation directly following the
service.*

OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**
Mondays to Thursdays from 9 am - Noon
revalianningson@gmail.com (506) 292-2369 [cell]

Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 13 at 6pm: Share a meal followed by communion to
observe **Maundy Thursday**. Please bring main dishes, salad, rolls,
etc. Dessert of grapes provided.

Friday, April 14 at 11am: You are invited to “Come to Gethsemane” at
our **Good Friday Service**.

Sunday, April 16 at 6:30 am: Join us for our “Early One Morning...”
Easter Sunrise Service. Meet at the Experimental Farm, Lincoln
Road. (Take the first entrance on your right, directly before the main
entrance to the Potato Research Facility.) Bring a dish to share at the
potluck breakfast afterwards at the Church.

Sunday, April 16 at 10am: Holy Week ends with our **Easter Sunday**
Service where we will celebrate “The Rainbow After the Storm” with

reflection, music and communion.

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Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Progressive Christianity Study Group

A. Mondays 7 - 8 pm in the Library

B. Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm in the Parlour

Sunday, April 23 10 am Service to Celebrate of Our Affirming Ministry

Quilt Group Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room

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

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Free income tax clinics will be held for people of lower income from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Friday March 31, April 7, 21, and 28.

For information call Mary Grant 459-8525

Potential Scripture Readers - During April, May Houston (455-7715) has taken on the task of arranging for lay readers to assist at Worship Services. Please help her by indicating on the Reader Chart which Sunday's in April (and beyond) you would be available if needed and also when you would not be available.

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.

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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

COMMEMORATION OF THE 100 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE The Royal Canadian Legion wishes to invite you and members of your congregation to attend on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 2:00 pm, The Provincial Cenotaph, Queen Street Fredericton, NB

AND CAN IT BE? Please join the congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church for a reflective candlelight worship concert for Easter on Sunday, April 9, 6:30 pm. The church's music ministries will take part in the service. The offering will go to the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center. A reception will follow. All welcome.

When Love Hurts: Understanding & Healing Domestic Abuse Grace Memorial Baptist Church will offer a 4 week support group to help those who are caught in the painful cycle of abuse. The video and discussion series will be held from 7-9 PM on Tuesdays, April 25-May 16. For more information or to register please call the church office 458-8527.

UCW Bridge Luncheon Book your table now for our upcoming Bridge Luncheon. **Thursday, May 11th, at 12 noon.** At the Nashwaaksis United Church gym. Tables are \$40.00. Contact Connie – 472-4744



Fair trade coffee, tea, sugar, and chocolate are available every Sunday here at Forest Hill. Make your selection and support the outreach efforts of our congregation!

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Minute for Missions Human Rights in the Philippines

Our gifts for Mission & Service support human rights. Let us hear a story from the Philippines.

“The prevailing situation of the Philippine society is even worse when seen through the prophetic eyes of the church. There is major ongoing social unrest in our country today,” says the Rev. Jerome Baris of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Mission & Service partners the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines are actively involved in advocacy for human rights.

Human rights violations are widespread, with thousands of activists being intimidated, “disappeared,” jailed without charges or trial, or killed. These people have stood for the rights of the Filipino people, including Indigenous people, who are often involved in land disputes with the government and corporations, particularly around mining.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines are calling for peaceful resolutions to conflicts and for assurances that the people most affected will be included in the discussions. They condemn violent responses to communities trying to determine their own futures.

We sing thanksgiving for Mission & Service partners walking with people in the Philippines in their struggle for human rights.

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!