

Forest Hill United Church
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'
Baptism of Jesus
1st Sunday after Epiphany
January 7, 2023 11:30 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38

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

**Introit: A Light is Gleaming (refrain) VU 82

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.

Call to Worship:

One: You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

All: As we prepare, you speak, and we listen.

One: You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

All: Our goal is clear; we seek the highest good.

One: You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

All: We are not alone; our faith companions go with us.

One: You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

All: You are our guide; we have nothing to fear. Amen

Gathering Prayer:

One: Loving God, In our discipleship we will be bold.

All: As bold disciples, we will listen carefully to those who experience life differently from us.

One: In our discipleship we will be bold.

All: As bold disciples, we will work out our own faith and explore that of other faith communities.

One: In our discipleship we will be bold.

All: As bold disciples, we will meet with the powerful ones but will not submit to them.

One: In our discipleship we will be bold.

All: As bold disciples, we will experience love in a little child and will humbly worship. Amen

**Opening Hymn: Arise Your Light is Come VU 79

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: 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.

****Hymn of Praise:** I am the Light of the World VU 87
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Exploring

A Prayer before the Reading

One: Touch us with your Word, Loving God,

All: stir up within us fresh ways of enlivening your Word for our day.

One: Hold us with your Word, Loving God,

All: challenge us as we search for your way in our faith community.

One: Shake us with your Word, Loving God,

All: set us ablaze with a determination to be bolder disciples.

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72 Voices United page 790 Parts One & Two

Matthew 2:1-12

A Prayer after the Reading

One: We thank you for your Word, Loving God,

All: gracious words that tell of your presence.

One: We thank you for your Word, Loving God,

All: enlivening words that enthuse and affirm.

One: We thank you for your Word, Loving God,

All: familiar words that faithfully inspire

One: We thank you for your Word, Loving God,

All: challenging words that are surprising and heartening.

Living God, we thank you for your Word.

****Hymn of Reflection:** Hope Shines As a Solitary Star MV 220

Reflection

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts:

Sung Response: Christ Has No Body Then But Yours MV 171 refrain
**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: May We But Wait MV 175

**May we but wait upon Love's word,
Knowing our prayer is heard.**

Repeat

An Act of Faithful Commitment for a New Year

One: Follow the star!

All: The light of Jesus Christ will be our light in the new year.

We will study faithfully and listen patiently.

We will proclaim Jesus joyfully and care compassionately.

We will play our part in the faith community fully

and pursue justice with daring.

One: You will go with God,

All: and God will go with us. Thanks be to God!

****Closing Hymn:** I See a New Heaven VU 713

Commissioning and Benediction:

****Choral Amen:** May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.**

**May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,**

**and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.**

Postlude: What Child is This VU 74

Today's worship service was adapted from **Epiphany: A New Year, a New Vision** by David Sparks. © 2022 The United Church of Canada/L'Eglise Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence

OFFICE
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Worship Leader – Heather Donnelly, LLWL
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Jean Fisher
Tellers – William Hughes
Hospitality – Jennifer Abbott
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Office Coverage – May Houston
Wednesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.
