

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



1st Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Just as I Am VU 508

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

Introit: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**

Call to Worship:

Create in us a pure heart, O God.

And place a wise and gracious spirit within us.

Grant us the guidance and grace we need for the living of these days.

**Strengthen and lead us to make choices that are consistent
with your will for us, and for the world.**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

God our Creator through the word and witness of Jesus, you challenge and encourage us to acknowledge the big questions of life - questions of faith and doubt, fear and hope. Open us to the new possibilities you create for us and the world you love. Bless us as we search for beauty, truth and goodness during this Lenten season

Opening Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart MV 79

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: adaptation from the original Aramaic
Translations by Neil-Douglas Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos

Creator God, Father-Mother of the Cosmos.
Focus your light within us, and make it useful.
Create your reign of unity now.
Through our fiery hearts and willing hands.
Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.
Animate the earth within so that we can feel the wisdom underneath supporting all.
Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.
Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light, and the sound the cosmos. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: I Am a Child of God MV 157
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

God who is all in all,
You invite us to make choices.
Choices about what we do, and how we spend our days.
Choices about what we say, and what we won't say.
Choices about how we deal with mistakes - ours, and those of others.

Choices about how we respond to life's changing seasons.

It can be tempting to believe we have a pretty good handle on the truth, and that our ways are best.

Grant us courage to choose wisely and follow the paths you set for your people.

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Matthew 4:1-11

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: All Things Bright and Beautiful VU 291

Reflection: "Blessed Are The Imperfect"

Special Music: Amazing Grace

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: Deep In Our Hearts MV 154 vs 1

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: Stay With Us Through the Night VU 182 vs 1

**Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us,
blessed stranger till the morning breaks again.**

Closing Hymn: My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

Commissioning and Blessing:

Choral Amen: When We are Tested MV 65 vs 4

**When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Postlude: Blessed Assurance VU 337

OFFICE

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

Usher – Robert Christie
Tellers – Mary Grant and Jean Fisher
Hospitality – Annemarie Manson
Music – Alex Good and Diane Robinson

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych
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