

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



4th Sunday in Lent  
March 27, 2022 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

Prelude: Open My Eyes VU 371

Welcome, Acknowledgement & Announcements:

Extinguishing the Fourth Candle of Lent

Introit: VU 108 Verse 4

**And though the road is hard and steep,  
the Spirit ever calls us on through  
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,  
until we see the coming Dawn.**

Call to Worship:

One: This is God's house and God's invitation

**All: We come to worship God**

One: This 4th Sunday of Lent, we come remembering the journey Jesus took.

**All: We come to worship God**

One: We wait to feel the Spirit's breath within us

**All: We come to worship God**

One: We come to worship the Merciful God, the Redeemer Jesus, and the Enabling Spirit, the Three in One.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Merciful God, in this season of waiting and anticipation, we come to you hopeful for the possibilities of new life. We await the coming of spring, when the sleeping creation will break forth and once again verdant life will grow. As we wait, cause new life to stir within each one of us, that we might prepare for renewed and plentiful life. We pray in the name of the one who created life, the one who came to bring life and the one who sustains life within us. Amen**

(adapted from Ryan McNally, Gathering Lent/Easter 2022, page 32, used with permission.)

Opening Hymn: God Who Gives To Life Its Goodness VU 260

Intergenerational Time: "Letting Go and Cultivating"

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Adaptation by Jim Cotter

Hymn of Praise: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU 271

*Young at heart leave for Sunday School after first verse.*

Prayer of Confession

One: Provider God who created the universe and all that is in it, with abundance for all; we feel threatened by perceived scarcity when in fact we have more than we actually need.

When the pandemic first came, there was hoarding of some supplies leading to empty shelves in the stores and an uneven distribution of goods.

**All: We are called to live with respect in Creation.**

One: Provider God, we fear that we will have to change our lifestyles if there is a scarcity of fossil fuels, although we know that we could use less by planning our errands, car pooling and putting on warmer clothes; and by doing this we could slow global warming and save your creation.

**All: We are called to live with respect in Creation.**

One: Like the rich man who asked Jesus what he had to do to get to Heaven, we hang onto material goods and household items in quantities much greater than we need. If we gave them away, others could have fewer needs, and the wealth would be more evenly distributed.

**All: We are called to live with respect in Creation.**

One: We dispose of things, fill the landfills and contribute to a toxic world, when we could repair, recycle, re-purpose or reuse them, proving to ourselves that we do have enough.

**All: We are called to live with respect in Creation.**

One: We become self-absorbed and feel we don't have time to reach out and help someone through a rough patch; when sharing and support would prove to be time well spent and benefit us both as the Spirit would come and breathe warmth into our hearts.

**All: We are called to live with respect in Creation.**

One: In so many aspects of our lives, we fail to see that our fear of doing without, or fear of scarce material and non-material resources is leading us to choices which in fact give us more than we can use and leave others in need.

**All: We are called to live with respect in Creation.**

One: We now bring you our personal concerns in silent prayer.

*(a time of silent prayer)*

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Joshua 5: 9-12

Psalms 32 VU 759 with sung refrain

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b- 32

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Reflection: The Older Son

Special Music: Where Have All the Flowers Gone  
by Pete Seeger, sung by Brian Cassidy

## Responding

Presentation of our Gifts

Sung Response: Deep in Our Hearts MV 154 Vs. 4

**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:

Response: Stay With Us VU 182

**Stay with us through the night.**

**Stay with us through the pain.**

**Stay with us,**

**Blessed stranger till the morning breaks again.**

Closing Hymn: God of the Bible MV 28

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen: There is Room for All MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;**

**There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.**

**And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."**

**There is room for all, there is room for all!**

Postlude: We Shall Go Out VU 586

Land Acknowledgment

At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqey 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.

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

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Worship Leader – Mary Grant

Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson, 459-8779

Usher – May Houston

Teller – Jean Fisher

Music Team – Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Sunday School – Margie Roxborough

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

[foresth.office@bellaliant.com](mailto:foresth.office@bellaliant.com)

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