

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



4th Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023 10 a.m.

This week's bulletin is dedicated in honour of
Graham and Patricia's 63rd wedding anniversary and
Graham's 88th birthday today, March 19th.

With all our love Kevin, Andrea and Todd,
Ryan and Sonja, Sean, Kelsey and Luke
and great grandson Jaxon.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Stand By Me by B.E. King, J. Leiber & M. Stoller

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.

Extinguishing the Fourth Candle of Lent

Introit: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights
**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.**

VU 108 v4

Call to Worship:

One: Kindred of God, a new vision of leadership is called forth
and God calls upon the least likely, the unheard of, and the
humble of heart to assemble to receive anointing.

**Many: In peace, we anoint the forgotten, the youngest,
smallest, and unlikeliest of siblings whom God has raised
up to serve.**

One: Though the call may involve risk and danger, we are
called to listen, obey, and live a love unwavering.

Many: In peace, we anoint the disinherited and dismissed.

One: God's call does not depend on our outward appearance or
our earthly achievements.

**Many: In peace, we anoint neighbor and kin alike, knowing
God looks upon the heart.**

All: Let us open our hearts to God this day. Amen.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Holy Shepherd, through simple acts of kindness, we know
your presence most deeply. Your protection gives us courage.
Your sustenance gives us strength. Your vision of peace gives
us hope. Teach us to know your voice above all others, calling
us to humble servanthood. Amen.**

Adapted from Prayers for all Seasons Year C, copyright 2015 Wood Lake Publishing Inc.,
Kelowna, BC

Opening Hymn: I Have Called You By Your Name MV 161

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, the Lord of Sea and Sky VU 509
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

A Time of Soul Searching: (All)

One: God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do.

Many: We look to the flashy fame, the grand gestures, optimal achievements, and unreachable standards. Yet, in spite of our misguided reach towards perfection, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace.

One: Surprise us yet again this day, O God. In our complacency that allows us to drift toward the same old ways of faith, we may be transformed anew.

Many: Provide us with a new cup of oil to anoint us with your love so that we may set out into your world to bless and anoint others.

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Living Psalm 23 written by Maria Mankin

John 9:1-41

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: The Lord's My Shepherd VU 747

Reflection:

Special Music: All By Myself

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.**

Dedicating our Gifts: (All)

Generous God, you remind us that you "anoint our heads with oil" and that our "cup overflows" with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of this hurting world. May your cup of love overflow for the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. Amen.

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: Take, O Take Me as I Am MV 85 x2

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: Bridge Over Troubled Waters by Paul Simon

Except where otherwise noted, prayers this week are adapted from :*Come Peaceably*: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ, and copyrighted by the National Setting of the United Church of Christ, 1300 E. 9th Street, Suite 1100, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

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