

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



Advent 3  
December 12, 2021 10 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

Prelude: Never Ending Joy MV 40

Welcome, Acknowledgement & Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Light and Advent 3 Candle

One: There once was an amazing person who did such wonderful things, that those who followed him asked "Who are you?" and he said, "I am light!"

**All: With this good news we light the candle of Joy on this Third Sunday of Advent. This candle represents the flow of joy from one to another, until the globe is encircled with the warmth of Jesus' Joy.**

Introit: VU 7, vs. 3

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn  
telling the world that the Saviour is born,  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.**

Call to Worship:

Come and join us as we tell the story of a deep mystery.

**A faith story that began long ago.**

A story that continues today.

**A story of an unfolding mystery.**

That reaches through the ages.

**A story that belongs to all of us.**

Come, let us begin the story that leads us into wonder....

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you. Show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable joy, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion pg 51

Opening Hymn: On Jordan's Bank VU 20

Intergenerational Time

Prayer that Jesus Taught: see insert

Hymn of Praise: Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy MV 33

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

Prayer of Confession:

**All: O God, you have done so much for us in the past.  
We have raised our voices in words and in hymns.  
We certainly are not beyond your redemption, God,  
but we do fall far short of what you would have us be. For  
this we pray in silence for your understanding and mercy.**

Words of Assurance:

God has blessed us.

Our prayers are always heard,  
even before they are half formed.

Lovingly, God stays with us.

We are assured of God's forgiveness in the gifts we  
experience of hope, peace and joy.

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 12:2-6

Luke 3:7-18

“Rejoice in the Lord Always”

based on Philippians 4-4-7 VU249

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Reflection:

Special Music: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU 232

## Responding

Presentation of our Gifts

Sung Response: What Can I Do? MV 191

Prayers of Our Community:

**All: Caring God, we ask that you bring hope, peace and joy to those who call on you**

Sung Response: Take, O Take Me As I Am MV 85

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.**

Commissioned to Share the Light

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World Verses 1, 4 VU 59

Benediction & Choral Ending: MV 215

**Joy be with you, joy forever,  
joy be with you, my friends.  
Till we meet again, may God be with you.  
Joy, Joy, Joy.**

Postlude: (please remain seated)  
Oh How Joyfully VU 57

## 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 Space

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](http://foresthillunited.com)

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Worship Leader – Reverend Mary Tingley  
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson, 459-8779  
Prayers during Advent – Mary Grant

Usher – Jennifer Abbott  
Tellers – Mary Grant and Jean Fisher  
Music Team – Diane Robinson  
Sunday School – Margie Roxborough

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych  
Monday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
[foresth.office@bellaliant.com](mailto:foresth.office@bellaliant.com)

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