

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



Palm Sunday  
April 2, 2023 10 a.m.

Welcome back, Alex!

WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude:

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 Sixth Candle of Lent

Introit: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108 v6

**Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing  
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!  
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings  
on Easter Day will rise again!**

Call to Worship:

Today, we remember the crowd that eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus, and that shouted:

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God! Hosanna in the Highest!**

Jesus' followers were excited and filled with anticipation.

**Yet within a few short days they were scattered, disillusioned and frightened.**

We, too, prefer to follow the Jesus who inspires crowds and rides triumphant.

**We too, struggle when our hopes aren't realized, and when we feel forsaken.**

Let us turn to God for wisdom, grace and peace. Let us pray together:

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**God of majesty and mercy,**

**As we enter Holy Week and gather in your house of prayer,  
turn our thoughts again to Jerusalem.**

**Be with us as we acclaim Jesus as Messiah.**

**Be with us as we watch the power of love confront the  
powers of the world.**

**Comfort us with the knowledge that you walk with us  
through all the joys and sorrows of life. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Ride On, Ride On In Majesty VU 127 tune of VU 100

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: He Came Riding On a Donkey VU 124  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

Prayer of Self Reflection:

Enduring Presence, we admit that your mercy and forgiveness is often a mystery to us.

**It can be difficult to show mercy to others when they fall short of our expectations.**

It can be easier to keep silent rather than speak up when others are in trouble.

**There are times when we prefer to choose the popular way instead of the one that is just and faithful.**

Inspire us with the example of Jesus, and give us the courage to follow.

*-silent reflection-*

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 26:3-5

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: In Suffering Love VU 614

Reflection: "A Choice of Two Parades"

Special Music:

## 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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU 333

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:

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 – John Neville  
Tellers – William Hughes and Robert Christie  
Hospitality – Jennifer Abbott  
Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
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