

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



Celebrating Indigenous Day of Prayer  
(June 21, 2023)  
June 11, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude: Each Blade of Grass MV 37

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 the Christ Candle

\*\*Introit: Spirit Open My Heart refrain MV79  
**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

### Call to Worship:

One: We come to share in the Creator's gift of abundant life for all.

**All: We fix ourselves on you, Creator.**

One: Come fill our hearts with your endless love, and send - the wind of your Spirit to renew hope through our lives.

**All: Come light our souls to reach out for your kindom.**

One: Come pour out your Spirit upon us as we stand together as your children

**All: Lift up our heads, brush away the shadows, and shine your grace into our minds.**

One: Creator, we rise in worship, we shake off all that is bothering us from our everyday lives and join our hearts together.

**All: With gratitude we gather as a community in prayer, Creator, to seek transformation and to celebrate the power of your Spirit that is always moving.**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Eternal God, you are our rock, you are the firm foundation for everything we build.**

**You give gifts to your people and equip and train us to work for the good of all**

**As we meet today, we ask that you would provide wisdom, guidance and direction.**

**Remind us that you are our living ally, you are our tower of strength, and you are our rescuer.**

**Everything we need is found in you.**

**Through Jesus Christ, Amen**

\*\*Opening Hymn: To Abraham and Sarah VU 634

Intergenerational Time: The United Church of Canada Crest

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Paraphrased by Sarah Dylan Breuer

Loving Creator we honour you,

and we honour all that you have made.

Renew the whole world in the image of Your love.

Give us what we need for today,

and a hunger to see the whole world fed.

Strengthen us for what lies ahead;

heal us from the hurts of the past;

give us courage to follow your call in this moment.  
For your love is the only power,  
the only home, the only honour we need,  
in this world and in the world to come.  
Amen.

\*\*Hymn of Praise: One More Step VU 639  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

Report from Conference – Bob Fisher

Prayer of Self Reflection:

**Creator God, you created all people as equals. Still, somehow throughout history, we have forgotten that truth and have decided that the way in which we meet life's challenges is the right way. We have forgotten at times to step back, watch and learn from others. We know how it feels when others do not respect our knowledge or our traditions. Yet we often forget. As part of the United Church of Canada, we are still learning. Holy Spirit, please guide us as we reflect on how we can embrace the uniqueness of all people and have richer lives from that learning.**

*-silent reflection-*

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Psalm 33: 1-12 VU 760  
Romans 4: 13-25

One: In this is the word of God for the people of God.  
All: **Thanks be to God**

\*\*Hymn of Reflection: I Am the Dream MV 106

Reflection: The Seven Grandfather Teachings

Special Music: Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me by Elton John

## Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Prayers of our Community:

God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you this day for the gifts you have provided your people.

**We lift our people up for healing comfort and your compassion.**

We pray for the missing and murdered women, young girls, men, and boys of your people.

**May they be wrapped in your arms of comfort.**

We pray for the families of the missing and murdered, that they receive comfort in their loss.

**We pray for our warriors who fight against the injustices our people endure; we pray they have your compassionate ear; we pray for strength and endurance for them.**

We pray just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people.

**We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us.**

We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth, and wisdom.

**We offer this prayer in humility and hope and in the name of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice, and peace. Amen.**

Today, we pray for those who have had their worlds turned upside down due to runaway fires.

**We keep close to our hearts those who have lost their homes and who had no time to save what was precious to them.**

We pray that they may find help and comfort from you through the actions of friends and family.

**We pray for the firefighters and other first responders who are faced with a thankless task and who agonize over your Creation destroyed.**

We pray for the Red Cross and other Volunteer organizations who are trying to bring comfort to those who are displaced.

**We pray for all of your Creation and recognize that it is crucial that we take measures to prevent the destruction of the earth.**

Be with all those who we know, or know of that are facing a different life than they did two weeks ago. Help them rebuild lives centering on the knowledge of your ever present love.

**We pray for those close to home who have had life changing medical crises.**

We pray for their families and friends that they feel your help on the long journey to recovery.

**In silence we bring our own prayers to you, knowing that you hear the thoughts of our minds and aches of our hearts.**

*Moment of silent prayer*

In the ever present hope that we can barely understand, we lift our prayers to you, Creator, Light of the World and Spirit of Wisdom. Amen.

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.**

\*\*Closing Hymn:      Grateful    MV 182

Commissioning and Blessing:

\*\*Choral Amen:      When You Walk from Here                      VU298

**When you walk from here,  
when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy,  
and with God's humble care.**

Postlude:              My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning) MV 120

Much of the service today is adapted from the UCC Worship Resources for the 2020 Indigenous Day of Prayer Service by Deb Anderson Pratt

OFFICE

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

Usher – Robert Christie  
Tellers – Jennifer Abbott and May Houston  
Hospitality – Diane Robinson  
Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,  
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

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

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