Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017 at 7 pm

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.
Our worship leader is **Rev. Bob Jones,**
Our music director is **Alex Good**,
and the **FHUC Choir**.
Our greeters this evening are **Libby Cassidy** and **Brian Cassidy**,
and our teller is **William Hughes**.

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

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.

Before the service begins, please join us as we sing verses from:

VU #74What Child is This
VU #75 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
VU #48 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
VU #55 In the Bleak Midwinter

Gathering

At the **, please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Welcome & Church News

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light four candles, and the Christ candle.

This evening, we gather to hear the ancient account of God with us. Not the God of elsewhere, but the God within us, the God-given birth long ago. One so delightful that, for centuries, we have named this One as the Prince of Peace.

Gathering Prayer: (In unison)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright.
This is the flame of friendship, of daring love.
We see the flame, we feel it.
Let it burn within us and within everybody.
Let it burn in cold places and lonely places.
Let it burn in troubled places.
Let love grow and grow until no one is cold,
no one is lonely, no one is troubled.
And for the times we let the flame of love flicker,
the times we keep it to ourselves,
the times we turn our back on it,
help us, enlighten us, forgive us. Amen.

Robin Wardlaw, Glen Rhodes U.C., Toronto, Ont.

Carol: VU #62 Once in Royal David's City

Christmas Reading: Luke 1:26-33 Christine Hughes

Carol: VU #64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Christmas Reading: Luke 1:34-38 Joe Rideout

Special Music: A Child this Day is Born Sung by Patricia Powell
Choir members in the chorus

Christmas Reading: Matthew 1:18-23 Laura Eliaba

Carol: VU #59 Joy to the World

Christmas Reading: Luke 2:1-7 Jean Fisher

Celebrating

Presentation of Our Gifts

The Offering **VU55**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

****Prayer After Giving**

Carol: VU #60 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Christmas Reading: John 1:1-14 Graham Powell

Carol: VU #67 Silent Night, Holy Night

****Blessing**

Postlude