

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017 at 10 am

**"There is a bow within the rain
and it will come and bend again
and colours shine where we have been together."**

**"There is a Time" [hymn]
Carolyn McDade**

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.
Our worship leaders are **Rev. Ali Anningson**
and our music director is **Alex Good**,
who leads us with the assistance of the **FHUC Choir**.
Our greeter this morning is **May Houston**,
our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**,
and our tellers are **May Houston** and **Joan Mitchell**.

***Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for all people to gather
regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status,
sexual orientation, and gender identity. All are welcome here!***

-1-

Gathering Together

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

The bulletin today is dedicated
in thanksgiving for the birth of Max Allen Robinson,
son of Bruce and Kelsey, on April 11,
and in loving memory of his grandfather, Ernie
Robinson,
who passed away on April 4, 2016,
by Diane, Laura, Bruce and families.

Prelude:

Welcoming the Light

One: Hallelujah!

All: **Hallelujah!**

One: We gather today with joy in our step for we recognize
that great light has broken through the darkness.

All: **This is the light of the Divine,
the hope that comes from God.**

The Christ Candle is lit.

One: May we recognize that this light shines for us.

****Introit: (Sung Together)**

#59 MV, v.1

**Alleluia, praise to God. Alleluia, praise to God.
Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.
Alleluia, praise to God.**

Welcome & Church News

Gathering Words:

One: Gather together, you Easter people.

**All: Since the beginning of our faith,
people have gathered in hope.**

continued-->

-2-

One: Our tradition has always given us
such wonderful stories of hope.

**All: Early people told the story
of Noah and the great flood.**

One: After the darkness of that storm,
God set a rainbow in the sky so that
the people would know God was always with them.

All: Our scriptures tell many more stories like that.

One: Because from then on, individuals were able to recognize
the rainbows that appeared after the storms in their lives,
feeling the steady presence of the Divine.

All: Today we tell the story of Easter.

One: After the darkness of Jesus' death,
his friends discovered an empty tomb, knowing that,
despite their grief, Jesus was somehow still with them.

All: We have been taught to look for rainbows.

One: Let us prepare ourselves now
to admire the rainbow in this new day.

****Opening Hymn:** #166 VU Joy Comes with the Dawn

Listening Together

Words from Our Bible:

Reader

Psalm 118, Parts 1-3
John 20:1-18

Page 837 VU (with Refrain)
The Resurrection of Jesus

One: This is the Word of Hope – the Word of Easter.

All: Thanks be to God!

Story Time

Song of Praise: #165 MV There is a Time

-3-

Special Music: Lead Me To The Cross by Brooke Fraser

Message: “The Rainbow After the Storm”

Celebrating Together

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** *(Sung Together)* #226 VU, v. 4 (edited)

**For each perfect gift sublime
to our world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.
God of all, up high we raise,
this our act of grateful praise.**

**Prayer After Giving

Communion Hymn: #155 VU Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss.**

**Love's redeeming work is done, hallelujah!
Fought the fight, the battle won, hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!**

**Paint a rainbow in the sky, hallelujah!
Joy has come for you and I, hallelujah!
Be inspired to start new life, hallelujah!
No more time for pain or strife, hallelujah!**

**Gather now to share the meal, hallelujah!
As we feast, it's God we feel, hallelujah!
See the love that's all around? Hallelujah!
In bread and juice, it is found, hallelujah!**

-4-

Communion:

*When invited, please come forward to receive communion
from either of the stations. You are also invited to take an Easter egg.*

*If you prefer, remain at your seat a
server will come to you. All bread is gluten-free.*

INVITATION

WORDS OF THANKSGIVING

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: With the women at the tomb,
shout your Hallelujahs.

All: Hallelujah! Joy comes with the dawn!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to live lives of thanks and praise.

One: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,
you are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.

**All: Through fear-filled days and aching nights
when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.**

One: Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

**All: We praise you for Jesus, who joins us together
as a community of broken but hopeful believers.**

One: In this meal, we remember Jesus.
We remember how, on the night before he died,
he took a loaf of bread,
gave thanks, broke it, saying,

-5-

All: "Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me."

One: After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,

All: "This is the new covenant, remember me."

One: We do remember.

**All: We remember his life of love, his friendship,
his teaching, his dying, and his unquenchable spirit.**

One: Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us.
May the wheat and the grapes be something more for us.
May we be nourished by our time at table.

BREAKING, LIFTING, SERVING

Server: "The Bread of Life," or "The Cup of Blessing"

PRAYER (Spoken Together)

Holy One, we have found the nourishment we need
to journey from the empty tomb
back to our homes, into our city,
and through our routine days.
As we carry this food in our stomachs
and as we carry these colourful eggs in our hands,
may we carry the feeling of this Easter in our hearts.
Amen.

****Closing Hymn:** #121 MV Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!

****Sharing the Light**

****Blessing**

-6-

****Choral Response: (Sung Together)**

#216 MV

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Postlude:



Please join us for coffee and conversation directly following the service.

Today's prayers and last two verses of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" were written by Ali Anningson (2017), except the Words of Thanksgiving, which was adapted from Alydia Smith & Alison Etter's "Easter Communion Liturgy – Inspired by a Song of Faith".

OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
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Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**

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-7-

Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

UCW Meeting	Tuesday April 18 th 10:30 at Doreen Kissick's home
Sunday, April 23	10 am Service to Celebrate of Our Affirming Ministry
Quilt Group	Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room
Choir Practice	Sunday at 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Free income tax clinics will be held for people of lower income from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.
Friday March 31, April 7, 21, and 28.
For information call Mary Grant 459-8525

UCW Meeting on Tuesday April 18th, at 10:30 am, in the home of Doreen Kissick.

Potential Scripture Readers - During April, May Houston (455-7715) has taken on the task of arranging for lay readers to assist at Worship Services. Please help her by indicating on the Reader Chart which Sunday's in April (and beyond) you would be available if needed and also when you would not be available.

Afghan Women: Peace through Education Speaker Susan Hartley, Rotary Peace Scholar, Wednesday April 19, 2017 at 7 pm.

HIKE FOR HOSPICE: The Hike will take place on 7th May this year. Last year Forest Hill formed a team to take part and if there is any

interest in doing so again this year please speak to Jennifer Abbott to get sponsor sheets, or call 454-2829.

-8-

THE LENTEN CHALLENGE: The Outreach Committee is issuing a challenge to the congregation. We are calling it the Lenten Challenge. Each person can start on the first day of Lent and take something from their house each day. This could be clothes, small appliances, linen, or any such item. Please do this with intention. Each day find something you no longer use or need, and place it in a bag or box. While you do this please say a word of gratitude for the plenty that brought it to you and for being able to use it. Then say a word of blessing to send it on its way and for the person who will acquire it and use it. After Easter you can take it to the charity of your choice. If you would prefer that someone else take please let us know and we will happily take it away for you.

Storm Policy Reminder: In the event of a serious storm on a Sunday morning, a decision will be made by 8 a.m. as to whether a cancellation is necessary. If a service is cancelled, a message will be placed on the church answering machine, sent out via email, and passed on to CBC radio.

Community Events

Wilmot United Church invites you to shop at their Rummage Sale on Friday, April 21st from 3 - 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 22nd from 9 a.m. - noon. Spring and summer clothing, toys, books, linens, home decor and more will be available! Proceeds from the event will support some of Wilmot's outreach projects: Fredericton Community Kitchen, Transition House Fredericton and the UNB Campus Ministry.

Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, is presenting an evening of entertainment, talent auction, and desserts at 7 pm, Saturday, April 22. Free admission. Come prepared to acquire some bargains and enjoy yourself. For information please contact Janice or Reg 444-8002 or Larry or Helen 457-1338."

When Love Hurts: Understanding & Healing Domestic Abuse

Grace Memorial Baptist Church will offer a 4 week support group to help those who are caught in the painful cycle of abuse. The video and discussion series will be held from 7-9 PM on Tuesdays, April 25-May 16. For more information or to register please call the church office 458-8527.

-9-

UCW Bridge Luncheon Book your table now for our upcoming Bridge Luncheon. **Thursday, May 11th, at 12 noon.** At the Nashwaaksis United Church gym. Tables are \$40.00. Contact Connie – 472-4744

"The AMUsing Comedy & Music Tour" will be held at Grace Memorial Baptist Church on Sunday, May 21 at 7:00 PM. This is a program for the whole family to enjoy. Tickets \$10 in advance from the church office; \$15 at the door, or online at

Minute for Mission / God's World Needs Leaders

Our gifts for Mission & Service support theological education. Let us hear a reflection from the Rev. Bronwyn Corlett, Ministry and Recruitment Program Coordinator, on what it means to answer the call to ministry.

Why do bad things happen to good people?

What is the right way to grieve?

How do we retell gospel stories in a responsible and inspiring way?

What does it mean to offer a ministry of presence?

Can you explain how Paul's theology evolves throughout his letters?

Can you explain how your own theology has evolved over the years?

These are just some of the questions theological education wrestles with. I know my biggest take-away from my theological education was a deeper understanding of how little I knew and the incredible importance of lifelong learning. Challenging assumptions and questioning convictions helps to break open scripture and faith and bring the gospel to life. At other times, the incredible wisdom of those who have come before shines through and lights up the importance of understanding and respecting our history and tradition.

To deepen our awareness of what God is calling us to, we need to engage in theological education to discern and deepen our understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ today.

We sing thanksgiving that our gifts support theological schools and education centres that provide training and continuing education for all who are answering God's call!

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!