

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



4th Sunday of Advent Love  
December 18, 2022 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude: Do You Hear What I Hear?  
by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

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 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Advent Candles

The Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Today is the Advent of love. As we light this candle, we remember all who are feeling lonely and distressed at this time of year.

**We live in a world that fears the stranger and the strange.**

We light this candle as our commitment to love that is expressed in inclusivity.

**We are the community that welcomes unconditionally and generously.**

We light this candle for Jesus, the Lover of All.

Adapted from Wanda Winfield, Gathering A/C/E 2022/23 page 69.

\*\*Introit:

VU 7 vs4

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.  
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:

O come, O come Emmanuel

**We come here seeking hope, peace, joy and love in our lives.**

We remember that Emmanuel means God with us.

**We come here remembering how you have brought hope, peace, joy and love to our lives.**

We know that your hope, peace, joy and love will lift our hearts in your praise

**We come here praising you with words of hope, peace, joy and love.**

We gather in community in this your house, to hear the promise of hope, peace, joy and love.

**We come here today to be filled with your hope, peace, joy and love.**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**As we gather here today in this your house, we blend our voices together. Each of us comes with a different story, a different song. Each of us comes with different needs. Yet when we gather with you in community, we share each other's needs and reach out to you. Our blended songs become a chorus of thanksgiving and praise. O come, O come Emmanuel. We gather to live the hope, peace, joy and love which you bring. Amen**

\*\*Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VU 1 vs 1&7

Intergenerational Time: What's in a Name (based on Isaiah 7: 10-16)

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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU 333  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

Prayer of Self Reflection:

Everlasting God, your love stretches across the ages, a constant beacon of hope and promise to all those who proclaim your name.

**Your love burrows down inside us to the gulf of our anxiety, providing us with your unwavering acceptance and peace.**

Your love untangles the messy, knotty dramas of our lives, guiding us with the certainty of your forgiveness and faithfulness.

**When we are overwhelmed with uncertainty, remind us that all things are possible for you and reassure us with your abiding presence in our hearts.**

There are things that we would like to release as we move into the final weeks of this year.

**Receive now those burdens we long to leave in your care.**

*(A time of silent prayer)*

Amen

Adapted from Gill LeFevre, Gathering Magazine A/C/E 2022-2023 pg 39

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Matthew 1: 18-25 a dramatic interpretation

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

\*\*Hymn of Reflection: Dream a Dream

MV 158

Reflection I Love You...But....

Special Music:

## Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: MV 27 Verse 3 abridged

**When with our hearts, our hands our minds,  
we share our gifts with all the world,  
our spirits soar beyond the veil,  
to touch the very face of God.**

Prayers of Our Community:

Sung Response:

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: May the Grace of Christ

VU 419

Commissioning and Blessing:

We have lit candles for the past 4 weeks

**We anticipate the coming of Jesus.**

We extinguish the candle of Hope

**We take the sense of hope and fulfillment with us.**

We extinguish the candle of Peace

**We fill ourselves with peace everlasting**

We extinguish the candle of Joy

**We smile and our eyes are alight with the joy of the season.**

We extinguish the candle of Love.

**We take God's love and let the world see it through us.**

Go now and let the hope, peace, joy and love embodied in the infant Jesus go with you. Amen

\*\*Choral Amen:

MV 215

**Love be with you, love forever,**

**love be with you, my friends.**

**Till we meet again, may God be with you.**

**Love, love, love.**

Postlude: Mary, Did You Know? Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Mary Grant, LLWL

Pastoral Care – Rev. Ian Manson 506-333-8318 and

Diane Robinson 459-8779

Usher – May Houston

Teller – Bob Fisher and Lorna McKnight

Hospitality – May Houston

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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