Forest Hill United Church

'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



4th Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017 at 10 am

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 morning are **Libby Cassidy** and **Brian Cassidy**,
our Sunday School teacher is **Christine Hughes, Rachel Neville**
and **Mary Grant**,
our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**,
and our tellers are **Jennifer Abbott** and **Mary-Anne Blakney**.

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.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent 4: ***(Spoken Together)***

One: As morning Sun separates the horizon, night from day, light from shadows,
All: we assemble to hear the ancient story told again this year.
One: a story of God's love burning brightly
All: into a waiting world; a spark of new life that unites us with God's love.
Light four candles.

****Introit:** ***(Sung Together)*** **Hope is a Candle by Linnea Good**
Verse 4
Love is a candle on our journey
Love is the holding and the flight.
All round this aching earth of winter,
this tender flame of love we'll light.

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: Christmas will soon be upon us.
All: This time of anticipation and waiting is soon over.
One: We long for the coming of Emmanuel in our midst,
All: for hope, peace, joy and love to surround us.
One: And so, let us worship our God.
Laura Turnbull, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.

Gathering Prayer: ***(Spoken Together)***

This Advent season is the reminder of your coming amongst us, O God.
To us, you are a mystery, and yet you also come to us often in the midst of ordinary life.
In our despair: **you are the God of Hope.**
In our turmoil: **you are the God of Peace.**
In our sadness: **you are the God of Joy.**
In our heartache: **you are the God of Love.**
And so, we enter into this time of worship with confidence and hope, knowing that you are always ready to meet us and bless us with love. Amen.
Kim Falls, Bethel Emily P.C., Omemee, Ont

****Opening Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful VU60

Exploring

Story Time

****Song of Praise:** Away in a Manger VU 69

After the first verse the children and teachers will leave for Sunday School

Words from Our Bible: **Diane Robinson**

2 Samuel 7:1-11
Luke 1 VU 898&899 refrain 1 responsive reading
Luke 1:26-38

One: In these sacred words we find love for our lives.
All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: O Little Town of Bethlehem by Phillips Brooks

Message: Christmas Memories

****Hymn of Reflection:** Come Thou, Long-Expected Jesus VU2

Celebrating

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** ***(Sung Together)*** ***VU 87***

I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love
You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

****Prayer After Giving**

Prayers of the People

Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today he bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.
United Church of Christ, 1995.

****Closing Hymn:** Go Tell It on the Mountain VU 43

****Sharing the Light**

****Blessing**

****Choral Response:** ***(Sung Together)*** **VU 38 Verse 3**

Angels we have heard on high

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ who's birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the lord, the newborn king
Gloria, in excelsis deo!

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship!

Printed sermons and large print bulletins
are available from our greeters
for anyone who might find either useful.

OFFICE HOURS
(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

Minister - **Rev. Bob Jones, C.D., B.TH.**
Office hours Monday morning, and can be reached at
(506) 451-8165 [home] (506) 476-8020 [cell]

Church News

The FHUC Book Club will meet on Tuesday Jan 2nd at 12 noon in the church parlour. The January book is "Do Not Say We Have Nothing" by Madeleine Thien.

AN INVITATION, you are invited to join Jennifer on 6th. January 2018 at Forest Hill United Church from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. to celebrate her birthday. Best wishes only.

COMING UP @ FHUC

Book Club Tues Jan 2nd 12 noon Do Not Say We Have Nothing By Madeleine Thien

Quilt Group Mondays 10:00 am -12:00 pm Upper Room

Choir Practice Sunday at 9:30 and 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

This evenings Christmas Eve service at 7:00p.m. Carol singing to start at 6:45. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

CHURCH CALENDARS are now available. They make good Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers at $8.00 each. For your copy see Jennifer after service or call 454 2829.

It is sometimes necessary to cancel services due to serious storms. A decision to cancel is made very early in the day. We put cancellation notices on our main telephone number (455-0988) and send an email to congregation members no later than 8:30 am. We also post cancellations to the radio and to our Facebook page (on the left side of our main web page).

Scripture Readers – are needed each week to assist during Worship Services. Please help Patricia Powell (455-8602), who coordinates readers, by indicating on the Reader Chart, which Sundays you would be available to read (√), if needed, and also when you would not be available (x). New readers are most welcome, and names could be added to the Chart.

Ushers/Greeters needed: Please check your schedule to see if you are available for one or more Sundays to help out with set up and greeting our congregation on Sunday mornings. Signup sheet is on the back table. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me. Many thanks. Lorna McKnight

Minute for Missions
New Beginnings after Civil War

Our gifts for Mission & Service support rebuilding after conflicts and natural disasters. Let us hear a story from Guatemala.

The Nebaj region of rural Guatemala suffered through three decades of civil war that ended in 1996. Here, the Guatemala Conference of Evangelical Churches (CIEDEG) is training more than 400 Indigenous women in human rights, citizen participation, and economic empowerment through farming.

The women have seen changes since the training. Their confidence has grown; they are no longer afraid to voice their opinion and some have even run for political office. Training encourages women to not just know their rights but also to exercise them. Says Veronica Gomez, CIEDEG's Gender Equality Program Coordinator, "Not only do they have a voice, but they also have a vote."

The agricultural development project has reduced malnutrition in the community's children and provided a new source of income for families. CIEDEG organizes local women into groups and provides each with seeds and materials for a greenhouse. Through these small cooperatives, the formerly displaced communities are becoming self-sufficient.

We sing thanksgiving that, through Mission & Service, communities are able to rebuild and experience peace!

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!