



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



1st Sunday after Christmas  
 December 31, 2023 11:30 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude: Angels From the Realms of Glory VU 36

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: A Light is Gleaming (refrain) VU 82  
**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

Call to Worship:

A boy has been born to us  
 A child has been given to us  
**And his name shall be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

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Once we were wandering people  
 Now we are God's people

**Once we walked in darkness  
 Now we walk in light.**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Loving God, we thank you for being with us and for sending Your Son to walk with us and to lead us. Jesus was born of Mary, so may he be born in us and through us revealed to the world. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent and Christmas be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you now and forevermore.  
 Amen.**

Intergenerational Time:

\*\*Opening Hymn: Unto Us a Child is Born VU 54

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Parker J. Palmer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
 Holy and blessed is your true name.  
 We pray for your reign of peace to come.  
 We pray that your good will be done.  
 Let heaven and earth become one.  
 Give us this day the bread we need.  
 Give it to those who have none.  
 Let forgiveness flow like a river between us.  
 From each one to each one.  
 Lead us to holy innocence.  
 Beyond the evil of our days  
 Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
 For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
 Forever your name is All in One.**

\*\*Hymn of Praise: Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

-2-

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:  
Luke. 2:22-40

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

Hymn of Reflection: O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64

Reflection: The Gift of Light

Special Music:

## Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts:

Sung Response: Christ Has No Body Then But Yours MV 171 refrain  
**Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: May We But Wait MV 175  
**May we but wait upon Love's word,  
Knowing our prayer is heard.**  
Repeat

\*\*Closing Hymn: Joy to the World VU 59

Commissioning and Blessing:

\*\*Choral Amen: Love Be With You 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: Once in Royal David's City VU 62

OFFICE  
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Worship Leader – Reverend Ellen Beairsto  
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – May Houston  
Tellers – William Hughes and Robert Christie  
Hospitality – Jennifer Abbott  
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

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

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