

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



Celebration of Our Affirming Ministry
April 23, 2017 at 10 am

"With open hearts, open minds
there is welcome in this place,
there is welcome in this space,
there is welcome with embrace,
with open hearts."

Mary-Ellen Kisch
"Find a Home Here" [hymn]

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 **Name**,
our hospitality host is **Name**,
and our tellers are **Name** and **Name**.

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Gathering Together

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

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!

Prelude:

Welcoming the Light

****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

Call to Worship:

One: Let us gather as a community of God.
All: **Wherever we will go, God comes too.**
One: For God is inside each one of us,
intertwined with our souls,
giving us life like a beating heart
or breathing lungs or a controlling brain.
All: **The same God that is in you is in me.**
One: At the same time, we also meet God here
like a rendez-vous with a good friend
or gathering for dinner with family.
All: **The same God that shows up for you,
shows up for me too.**
One: We may be diverse, with unique and special qualities
making us who we are, but in God we find a sameness.
All: **We come here to celebrate our common thread
and to celebrate that which makes us different.**

One: Just what the Divine is and how it works
is mysterious and wonderful.
All: But wherever we will go, God comes too.
Wherever we will go, God will meet us there.
 One: Come, let us experience God today.

By Ali Anningson of Forest Hill United Church, 2017

Opening Prayer: (*Spoken Together*)

God of all love, breathe on us your spirit of compassion.
 Open our ears to hear your voice
 speaking through human voices.
 Open our eyes to see your image in the face of each person here.
 Open our hearts and minds
 to experience your presence and your wisdom. Amen.

From *Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in the UCC*, 2011

****Opening Hymn:** #145 MV Draw the Circle Wide

Celebrating Together

Story Time “All I Want to be is Me” **Peggy Hawkes**

Special Music: Love Me for Who I Am **FHUC Sunday School**

Presentation of Certificate **Tony Burnett**

Recognition of Affirming Task Group

Greetings

Special Music: Common Thread by Pat Humphries
FHUC Choir & Sunday School

Words from Our Bible: **Christine Hughes**

Ruth 1:16-18

Where You Go, I Will Go

John 13:31-35 *The New Commandment*

One: This is the Word of Hope – the Word for All.
All: Thanks be to God!

****Song of Praise:** #138 MV My Love Colours Outside the Lines

Message: “Singing with Our Whole Body”

****Hymn of Reflection:** #165 MV There is a Time

Going Forth 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:

One: Through the many diverse gifts we are given,
 may we use all that we are and all that we have
 to grow acceptance, compassion, and love in the world.
All: Amen.

From 2017 Affirming Ministries Sunday, Saskatchewan Conference, UCC

Prayer of Our Community **Charlotte Flinn, Marie Hughes,
and Rachel Neville**

Written by Christine Hughes of Forest Hill United Church, 2017

