# 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.

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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

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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

#### The Prayer That Jesus Taught (Spoken Together)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed

by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

Paraphrase by Jim Cotter, 1988

\*\*Closing Hymn: #209 MV Go Make a Diff'rence

#### \*\*Sharing the Light & Blessing:

One: Go in peace, go in power,

go in the presence of God who is love.

All: We will go shining the light of community

for one another. Amen.

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

\*\*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: Beautiful by Christina Aguilera

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

## OFFICE INFORMATION (506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

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