

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



2nd Sunday in Lent  
March 5, 2023 10 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude: God of the Bible MV 28

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.

### Extinguishing the Second Candle of Lent

Introit: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108 v2

**The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,  
who found in weakness greater power,  
embraces us, though lost and flawed,  
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**

### Call to Worship:

One: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

**Many: "Go from," God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.**

One: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and toward a life born anew.

**Many: "Go toward" God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach toward a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.**

One: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. "How can this be?" we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God's call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

**Many: Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.**

### Gathering Prayer: (All)

**God of calls and courage, you draw us toward your loving embrace even as we face what seems like impossibility. We experience heartache and grief, injustice and cruelty, fear and anxiety as daily teachers on this path of faith. As you call us to go into an uncertain and unknown future, grant us courage to let go of what we have known so that we can take hold of the new life you are bringing about even now. Though we may not know where we are going, Your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. Praise be!**

Opening Hymn: Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise VU 264

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: adaptation from the original Aramaic  
Translations by Neil-Douglas Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos

Creator God, Father-Mother of the Cosmos.

Focus your light within us, and make it useful.

Create your reign of unity now.

Through our fiery hearts and willing hands,

help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion

for all creatures. Animate the earth within so that we can feel the wisdom underneath supporting all.  
Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.  
Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.  
Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light, and the sound the cosmos. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus VU 357 vs 1,2,3,5  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

A Time of Soul Searching (All)

**Holy One, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive our unwillingness to live by faith, our failure to trust you with providing all that we need for the journey. In your mercy surround our weaknesses with grace, restoring us to hope.**

*-silent reflection-*

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: I Feel the Winds of God VU 625

Reflection:

Special Music: Speed of Sound

## Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: Deep In Our Hearts MV 154 vs 1

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.**

Dedicating our Gifts: (All)

**O God who calls us out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and toward a faith journey that demonstrates your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of healing. Amen.**

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: Stay With Us Through the Night VU 182 vs 1

**Stay with us through the night.  
Stay with us through the pain.  
Stay with us,  
blessed stranger till the morning breaks again.**

Closing Hymn: Unto the Hills VU 842

Commissioning and Blessing:

Choral Amen: When We are Tested MV 65 vs 4

**When we have struggled and searched through the night,  
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,  
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Postlude: Though Ancient Walls VU 691

Prayers this week adapted from: Called to Go: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent, written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott who serves as the Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ and resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. Copyrighted by the National Setting of the United Church of Christ, 1300 E. 9th Street, Suite 1100, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | [foresthillunited.com](http://foresthillunited.com)

---

Worship Leader – Heather Donnelly, LLWL  
Pastoral Care – Rev. Ian Manson 506-333-8318 and  
Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – May Houston  
Tellers – William Hughes and Robert Christie  
Hospitality – Jennifer Abbott  
Music – Alex Good and Diane Robinson

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
[foresth.office@bellaliant.com](mailto:foresth.office@bellaliant.com)

---