

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



4th Sunday after Pentecost
June 25, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Deep in Our Hearts MV 154

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: Spirit Open My Heart refrain MV79
**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

Call to Worship:

One: God calls us this day and every day to a journey of discipleship that will radically transform our lives.

All: We hear the summons as we are called by name, and our desire is to say "yes."

One: God calls us to a journey that will challenge us as it challenged Jesus to live the truth of his identity. It is not easy to show God's love in the face of adversity or hostility and yet,

All: We hear the summons as we are called by name, and our desire is to say "yes."

One: God calls us to a journey of discipleship that may bring us into direct conflict with those we know and love, even members of our own family, but still

All: We hear the summons as we are called by name, and our desire is to say "yes."

One: God calls us to a journey that offers life without fear, a life that transcends our earthly existence, eternally bound in the love and shelter of our Creator, and

All: We hear the summons as we are called us by name, and our desire is to say "yes."

One: God calls us to a journey of discipleship that will call us out of the shadows and compel us to share the message of God's Kin-dom for all, proclaiming what we have learned at our teacher's feet and in the company of like-minded students and,

All: We hear the summons as we are called by name, and our desire is to say "yes."

One: God calls us this day and every day to a journey that will radically transform us and the world. The Holy One blesses us so that we do not have to travel alone, but with all others who hear their name and say "yes."

All: Let us continue the journey as we worship the One who calls us in spirit and in truth!

Gathering Prayer: (All)

Holy and Beloved One, we gather first just to say, "thank you." We thank you that you know us and call us by name to follow in your way. We thank you for challenging us to claim our identity as your disciples even when claiming so puts us at risk of adversity for your name's sake and for the sake of compassion, justice, and extravagant welcome to all. We thank you for this faith community and we ask that you make your presence felt with and among us. Help us to see you in the faces of all who are gathered in this place and to

celebrate the beautiful array of all we are as we worship you. These things we pray in the name of the One who continually calls us to more abundant life. Amen!

****Opening Hymn:** All Creatures of Our God and King VU 217

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Paraphrased by Sarah Dylan Breuer
Loving Creator we honour you,
and we honour all that you have made.
Renew the whole world in the image of Your love.
Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.
Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For your love is the only power,
the only home, the only honour we need,
in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.

****Hymn of Praise:** I Danced in the Morning VU 352
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

Loving God, you call us to journey with you as you journeyed on this earth – in love, in power, in healing, in conflict, in boldness, speaking truth to the powers that be.

Yet we are often afraid for our lives and reputations. We are afraid of those who would bully us spiritually, emotionally, and even physically.

We are often afraid to identify with you because your name has been used to justify harm to those who are the marginalized and oppression of those you refer to as “the least of these” and we don’t want to be identified with such things.

We are afraid to be singled out as different.

We forget that you have promised to watch over and care for us as much as and more than you care for the sparrows.

Forgive us our fear. Forgive our forgetfulness. Forgive our hiding and turning from your path. Forgive our unbelief and heal us by your peace and your presence.

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Genesis 21: 8-21

Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 VU 803

Romans 6: 1b-11

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

****Hymn of Reflection:** God Weeps MV 78

Reflection:

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: Praise God from Who, All Blessings Flow VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Dedicating our Gifts: (All)

Generous God, all that we have belongs to you. You provide for our every need. Now we bring back a part of what you’ve given to us. In love, we gladly say thank you. Receive our gifts which we return to you full hearted and freely. Take and use them for your glory and for the blessing of your beloved creation everywhere. Amen.

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: Take, O Take Me As I Am MV 85
**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

**Closing Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness VU288

Commissioning and Blessing:

**Choral Amen: When You Walk from Here VU298
**When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.**

Postlude: Wherever You May Go MV 216

Today's prayers were adapted from *Life: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in After Pentecost Year A*, written by Rev. Ann Jefferson, Associate Pastor of Worship & Liturgy at City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, California. © National Setting of the United Church of Christ, 1300 E. 9th Street, Suite 1100, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

OFFICE

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Usher – Jean Fisher
Tellers – William Hughes and Robert Christie
Hospitality – Jennifer Abbott
Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

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