

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



4th Sunday after Epiphany  
January 29, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude: God Who Gives to Life It's Goodness VU 260

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 Christ Candle

Introit: VU 96

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Call to Worship:

God calls us to seek justice:

**Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.**

God calls us to show kindness,

**Let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and despair.**

God calls us to walk humbly in the Spirit,

**Let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and hope.**

Called, blessed and inspired, let us worship God together.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**God of wisdom and blessing,**

**on this winter day we come into the warmth of your presence.**

**Here we find shelter in the strength of your promises;  
here we find welcome in your tender care.**

**We give thanks for the grace you freely offer,  
for the comfort of your community,**

**and for the wisdom that guides and sustains our lives.**

**Embrace us with your love in this hour of worship**

**as we offer you our love in return.**

**Amen.**

Opening Hymn: The Church is Wherever VU 579

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Adaptation by Jim Cotter

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 the 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 forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: It's a Song of Praise to the Maker MV 30

*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

Prayer of Self Reflection:

God of the ages, sometimes the world doesn't seem fair.

**Those who are wealthy and successful are often seen to be special and superior.**

Those who are meek, persecuted and poor in spirit are often regarded as inferior.

**It can be hard to see the world through Jesus' eyes, and recognize that all are equal.**

It can be challenging to put aside our own interests and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**Bestow your blessings upon us, as we turn to you in silence...**

*-silent reflection-*

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Matthew 5:1-12

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

\*\*Hymn of Reflection: Be Thou My Vision VU 642

Reflection:

Special Music: Teach Your Children by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young

## Responding

Presentation of our Gifts

Sung Response: Spirit, Open My Heart MV 79

**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.**

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: And When You Call for Me MV 96

**And when you call for me,**

**I have already answered.**

**And when you call for me,**

**I am already there.**

Closing Hymn: Go Make a Difference MV 209

Commissioning and Blessing

Choral Amen: MV 220

**Hope shines as the solitary star,**

**faith is the inner light.**

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,**

**and illumine the pathway home.**

Postlude:

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Rev. Dr. Ian Manson

Pastoral Care – Rev. Ian Manson 506-333-8318 and

Diane Robinson 459-8779

Usher – May Houston

Teller – Mary Grant and Jean Fisher

Hospitality – Annemarie Manson

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

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