

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



2nd Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU 232

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: Halle, Halle, Halle VU 958
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Call to Worship:

One: We come to worship bringing many things:
burdens and joys, weariness as well as celebration.

All: **We come to worship seeking many things:
comfort and strength, answers as well as questions.**

One: We come to worship hoping many things:
peace for the world, hope for the future, life for all of
creation.

All: **Gather all of our gifts, our desires, and our hopes
and let them be our worship this day.**

written by Kate Crawford, Gathering Lent/Easter 2015 p. 40 - modified

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**O Risen Christ, you came to your fearful disciples and
reassured them with your presence that the grave was not
the end.**

**Come to us each day, in times of goodness and times of
trouble.**

**Reassure us of God's eternal love and mercy,
For we are like the disciples, afraid and needing assurance.
We too need to know that you are here. Amen.**

written by Nancy Styles, Gathering Lent/Easter 2022 p. 46

Opening Hymn: I've Got Peace Like a River VU 577

Story Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Adaptation by Jim Cotter VU 916

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: Behold, Behold MV 115 (x2)
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

One: Holy One, we gather on this second Sunday of Easter hungry for your presence with us and hopeful for the Spirit’s breath to fill us.

All: **We exhale doubt, exhaustion and fear.**

One: We long to follow the faithful path of Jesus and yet fear the cost.

All: **Sometimes we prefer to stay behind locked doors, not taking any responsibility for life beyond our own walls.**

One: But it is a path that offers the world such love, forgiveness, grace and justice.

All: **So come on in. Don’t bother knocking. Catch us off guard and give us a chance to follow you again, we pray.**

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance:

One: The good news, now as then, is that Jesus does show up despite our defences and barriers, breathes the Holy Spirit into our lives, and tells us that the world is waiting for us.

All: **Thanks be to God for such patient persistence.**

written by Juanita Austin, Lent/Easter 2022 p.47 – modified

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

I Peter 1: 3-9

Psalm 16: VU 738

John 20: 19-31

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: In You There is a Refuge MV 84

Reflection: Awful? – or Awe-ful?

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: What Can I Do? MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I’ll sing with joy. I’ll say a prayer.
I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share.**

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: My Peace, My Peace by Arlo Guthrie
**My peace, my peace is all I’ve got that I can give to you.
My peace is all I’ve ever had, it’s all I ever knew.
I give my peace to red and white, to green and black and blue.
My peace, my peace is all I’ve got that I can give to you.**

Closing Hymn: Sent Out in Jesus’ Name MV 212

Sharing the Light:

Commissioning and Blessing:

Choral Amen: God Says MV 172 vs 4
**God says, “Reach out! The world’s in need
And wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
To act for Christ in everything.”**

Postlude: How Great Thou Art VU 238

OFFICE

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Hospitality – Annemarie Manson
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