

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



9th Sunday after Pentecost  
July 30, 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 Its 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 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:

The Christ Candle has been lit reminding us that Christ is here with us.

**We are called together to worship.**

We have greeted our friends and those who are visiting with us.

**We are called together to worship.**

We have come together in God's house.

**We are called together to worship.**

Opening Prayer: (All)

**Caring God, we have been called to these familiar surroundings. We come to this place where we can share our inner thoughts, our concerns and our joys with each other and with our God. Take all we have to share and help us find an openness to fully worship you in the service today. Amen**

\*\*Opening Hymn: Alleluia, Praise to God MV 59

Intergenerational Time: On the Run

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: Small Things Count VU 361

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

Prayer of Self Reflection:

**Caring God, You sense that we are running like Jacob. Perhaps we have hurt someone, through our actions or lack thereof, and so we run. Perhaps we are avoiding something which we ought to do, and so we run. Perhaps we have spoken harshly or been selfish of our time, and are running from what we have not done. No matter what we run from, we know that we can't really get away. We have to face up to our action or lack of action. You are there with us, Caring God, ready to help us**

**face up to our actions. You are there as we try to do better. So in silence we bring to you our thoughts of how we too have run away.**

*-silent reflection-*

Words of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Romans 8: 12-25

Responsive Psalm 139: 1-12 VU 861

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Reflection: Which is the Weed?

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.**

Prayers of our Community:

Nurturing God, within us is planted the seed of gratitude. We often forget to express our gratitude to those around us who bring us the full range of emotions which make us what we are.  
**Nurturing God, within us is planted the seed of love. It is through truly feeling the love of God that we can feel the love of others and learn to give love unconditionally in return.**

Nurturing God, within us is planted the seed of justice. We

must stand up for justice for all your people, just as we expect to be treated justly as well.

**Nurturing God, within us is planted the seed of caring. By caring for those around us and for the planet on which we live, change is possible to save the planet which supports our lives.**

Nurturing God, within us is planted the seed of hope. We fall short of what we might be, yet we hold on to the hope to improve each day and acknowledge that it is through God's Grace that this will happen.

**Nurturing God, help us to care for these seeds which are planted within us and help them grow strong and bear a great harvest of gratitude, love, justice, care and hope.**

In silence now, we ask that we be given an abundance of the seeds of our Faith, the seeds that will reap a good harvest.

*(time for silent prayer)*

We ask this in the name of the nurturing God, the caring Jesus and the energizing Spirit. Amen

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: May the God of Hope VU 424

Commissioning and Blessing:

**The light of Christ has been with us, centering us through our service this morning. We can extinguish the candle, but we can never extinguish the light. Take it with you, let Jesus light the way for you this day and every day.**

May the God who has searched each one of us, and knows us intimately, bless you and care for you each and every day.  
Amen

\*\*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:

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Worship Leader – Mary Grant, LLWL  
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Jennifer Abbott  
Tellers – Mary Grant  
Hospitality – Annemarie Manson  
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,  
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

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

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