

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



Affirming / 3rd Sunday of Easter, April 18, 2021 10 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Minister - Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher

Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. and by appointment
revdeborahfhuc@gmail.com (506) 999-4189 [cell]

Musical Director - Nadine Martin

Sunday School Teacher – Margie Roxborough

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

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

foresth.office@bellaliant.com

The following number is for the Government of NB and has been set up as a help line for anything COVID-19 related.

Please share the following phone number with your vulnerable friends. If you have any need for any reason call 1-844-462-8387

At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqey land.

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.

Gathering

Prelude: Pour le Piano by Claude Debussy

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit: VU 958

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(Repeat x3)

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer:

Call to Worship:

Welcome home, people of God.

**We have come to find refuge
in the shelter of God's care.**

Come and sit down.

There is room for everyone and God's house.

We have come to be nourished by God's word.

We are God's own people,
and we are precious in God's sight.

**We have come to give thanks for
God's faithful love.**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**We gather today O God, our guide and guardian,
remembering those who have nurtured us,
protected us, and helped us grow.**

**We give you thanks for homes that accept us
and affirmed us as your precious children.**

**In the shelter of your healing love,
fortify us as living stones, and build us into a spiritual
home where all are welcome.**

**In the name of Christ, our foundation and cornerstone,
we pray, Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Come In, Come In and Sit Down VU 395

A New Creed VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Story Time: We are a Rainbow video

Prayer that Jesus Taught

**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
echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!**

**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, 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.**

New Zealand Prayer Book

Song of Praise: Dance with the Spirit MV 156

Participants will leave for Sunday School after first verse

Easter Prayer of Renewal

In the wake of Easter glory, the disciples wanted to return to their busy lives, but they had moments of fear and uncertainty; they felt lost and alone.

Then Jesus said: "Peace be with you."

The words of Jesus brought joy to their souls and hope to their spirits. The disciples were ready to hear again the words of comfort proclaimed to them.

Then Jesus said: "Peace be with you."

Thomas did not feel the joy or accept the spirit of hope. He lived with fears and doubts that he could not vocalize.

Thomas felt he was all alone, cut off from the rest of the group.

Then Jesus said: "Peace be with you."

Moments come and go when we feel alone and abandoned.

There are times when we feel lost and uncertain about the future. We, too, live with fear.

(a time of silent reflection)

Then Jesus says to us: "Peace be with you."

And we say, "Thanks be to God. Hallelujah. Amen."

*Bill Steadman, Goulais River U.C., Goulais River, Ont. Gathering, LE 2021, page 47.
Used with permission.*

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

1 John 3:1-7
Psalm 4 VU 727
Luke 24:36b-48

One: In this is the word of God for the people of God.
All: **Thanks be to God**

Reflection:

Special Music: Stairway to Heaven by Led Zeppelin

Responding

Presentation of our Gifts

Prayers of Our Community:

Prayer Response: My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

Closing Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

Sharing the Light

Commissioning and Benediction:

Choral Amen: VU 96

**And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.**

Postlude: We are a Rainbow by David Kai

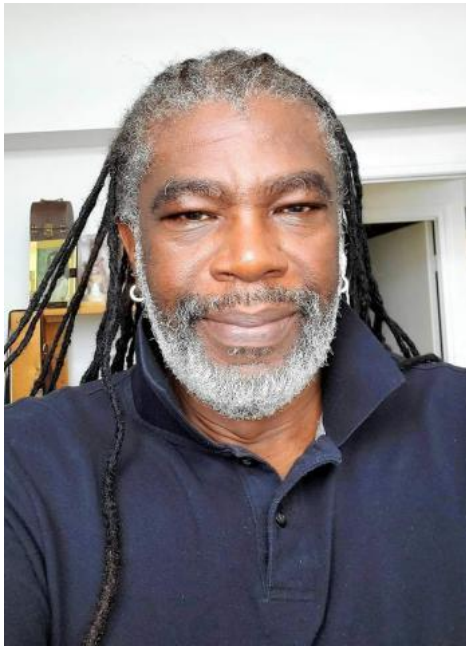
It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Bob James. Bob will always be remembered as a beloved member of the FHUC community and will be dearly missed. This is the message we have received from their daughter, Michelle:

Bob and Hazel have lived together at Thomas Hall by Shannex for almost 2 years. He had a stroke in January and just never recovered. He had a lot of pain since then. He may have had another stroke Sunday night and became unresponsive and he died Monday evening with Hazel at his bedside. Hazel's Alzheimer's has progressed quite far and she is not able to remember his death.

I am in Alberta and not able to be there with her right now. We will delay the visitation and service until restrictions are eased. If you could have any card sent to me in care of Hazel, I'll collect them and we can look at them all together rather than have her relive his death each time.

Hazel James
c/o Michelle James Brown
P.O. Box 583
Lancaster Park, AB
T0A 2H0

And of course my number is 587-987-0700 if folks want to reach out.



As the first Black and openly LGBTTTQ+ person to be appointed general secretary of the United Church of Canada Michael Blair knows he is travelling a new path. Blair, 64, was born in Jamaica. A father of two adult sons, he was ordained as a minister in Toronto in 1986 by the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. When he came out as gay in 2001, he was asked to leave that denomination and began working for various United Church-supported organizations in the city.

Through those experiences, he became more intrigued by the United Church and, in 2008, took his first staff position with the denomination.

Over his time as a staff member, he was asked to lead a number of different national programs. As a result, "I come into the role with a strong understanding of the church," he said.