

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



5th Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Abide With Me VU 436

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.

Extinguishing the Fifth Candle of Lent

Introit: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108 v5
**So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!**

Call to Worship:

Coming with our questions and our cries, our sorrows and our fears

God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.

Coming with our breath taken away by grief,
The Holy Spirit breathes new life within us.
Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,
We trust that we are not alone, and are surrounded with a holy love that will never let us go. Let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Holy One, Creator of life,
You call us out of our dark places, and stand beside us
when we don't know which way to turn.
When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with
the breath of your spirit.
In this time of worship,
draw near to us,
Set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with
your spirit of life, compassion and peace.
In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Like a River of Tears MV 98

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: adaptation from the original Aramaic
Translations by Neil-Douglas Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos

Creator God, Father-Mother of the Cosmos.
Focus your light within us, and make it useful.
Create your reign of unity now.
Through our fiery hearts and willing hands,
help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion
for all creatures. Animate the earth within so that we can feel
the wisdom underneath supporting all.
Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts'
simple ties to each other.
Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds
us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light, and the sound
the cosmos. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU 271
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

Enduring Presence, we admit that we sometimes struggle with our faith.

We remember difficult times and wonder where you were.

We remember tragedies and ask how you could let that happen.

We remember times when we've been judged unworthy, and have struggled to believe that this isn't true.

Remind us that your love never lets us go, and that its power holds us and heals us always.

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

John 11: 32-48

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: "Blessed be Those Who Mourn"

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: Deep In Our Hearts

MV 154 vs 1

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

Prayers of our Community:

Sung Response: Stay With Us Through the Night VU 182 vs 1

Stay with us through the night.

Stay with us through the pain.

Stay with us,

blessed stranger till the morning breaks again.

Closing Hymn: O Love, How Deep

VU 348 vs 1-4

Commissioning and Blessing:

Choral Amen: When We are Tested

MV 65 vs 4

When we have struggled and searched through the night,

sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,

Saviour, surround us with circles of care,

angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Postlude: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

VU 670

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Worship Leader – Rev. Ian Manson

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

Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Robert Christie

Tellers – Mary Grant and Jean Fisher

Hospitality – Diane Robinson

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

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

foresth.office@bellaliant.com
