

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



2nd Sunday of Easter
5th Anniversary of Affirming Ministry
April 24, 2022 2 p.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

Prelude: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161

Welcome, Acknowledgement & Announcements:

Lighting of Christ Candle

Introit: MV 1 vs5

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Call to Worship:

One: Let us gather as a community of God.

All: Wherever we will go, God comes too.

One: For God is inside each one of us,
intertwined with our souls,
giving us life like a beating heart
or breathing lungs or a controlling brain.

All: The same God that is in you is in me.

One: At the same time, we also meet God here
like a rendez-vous with a good friend
or gathering for dinner with family.

**All: The same God that shows up for you,
shows up for me too.**

One: We may be diverse, with unique and special qualities
making us who we are, but in God we find a sameness.

**All: We come here to celebrate our common thread
and to celebrate that which makes us different.**

One: Just what the Divine is and how it works
is mysterious and wonderful.

**All: But wherever we will go, God comes too.
Wherever we will go, God will meet us there.**

One: Come, let us experience God today.

By Ali Anningson, 2017 with permission

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**God of all Love, breathe on us your spirit of compassion
Open our ears to hear your voice
speaking through human voices
Open our eyes to see your image
in the face of each person here.
Open our hearts and minds to experience your
presence and your wisdom. Amen**

from Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in the UCC, 2011

Opening Hymn: The Church is Wherever God's People VU 579

Intergenerational Time: Why the LGBTQ+ Community
uses the rainbow as a symbol

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Originally created for transgender persons,
but applicable to all, by Rev Kim Sorrell

Hymn of Praise: Never Ending Joy MV 40

Young at heart leave for Sunday School after first verse

Prayer of Confession (All):

One: God who understands our hearts of love, our minds of
fear and our feet of hesitation;

All: Help us when we fall short of our best selves.

- One: Jesus who taught us to love our neighbour with no descriptors as to race, colour, sexual orientation or gender identity,
All: Help us to put into action deeds of human kindness for everyone.
- One: Spirit who enters our souls and bodies and warms us with abundant good will,
All: Encourage us to stand up for what is right, championing the inclusiveness of all God's created beings.
- One: Trinitarian God, help us stand up to hurtful words and deeds. Help us become the best selves that we can be. In silence now we bring our personal prayers to you.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Psalm 150 VU 874
 Luke 6: 20-31
 Ephesians 1: 11-23

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

Reflection:

Special Music: How Could Anyone Ever Tell You
 performed by SAC Gay Men's Chorus

Responding

Presentation 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:

- One: Constant Friend, because people of every sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity have the right to live with dignity and without persecution or discrimination, we remember in our prayers:
 LGBTQ2S+ people of Chechnya, Uganda, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and elsewhere who have been murdered and tortured because of who they are.
All: We remember them and the people who love them.
- One: LGBTQ2S+ refugees from around the world seeking safety and sanctuary.
All: We remember them and the people who welcome them.
- One: Trans and gender-diverse people in Canada, the United States, Brazil, and elsewhere, who are targeted victims of hate crimes and assaults.
All: We remember them and the people who love them.
- One: LGBTQ2S+ people whose dignity and self-esteem have been eroded by hateful systems and structures.
All: We remember them and seek to be people who love more fully.
- One: Individually, we each uniquely reflect your glory and express your love, but anti-gay violence, homophobia, and transphobia have blocked many from recognizing your beauty in all people.
All: All of creation suffers from the effects of such hate, fear, and violence.
- One: Daily, may we dedicate ourselves to building bridges of love and hope where harmful divisions have been made, making equity and equality for all people our goal, while working continually for justice,
All: so that everyone can live fully in your love. Amen.

A prayer by Alydia Smith UCC Worship Resources for Pride

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: My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

Blessing and Sharing the Light

One: Go in peace, go in power,
go in the presence of God who is love,

**All: We will go shining the light of community
for one another. Amen.**

From Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in the UCC, 2011

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: "True Colours" Cyndi Lauper video

Land Acknowledgment

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

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Worship Leader – Mary Grant

Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson, 459-8779

Usher – May Houston

Teller – Mary Grant and Joan Mitchell

Music Team – Diane Robinson, Brian and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

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

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