

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



2nd Sunday of Creation
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023 11:30 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom MV 10

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: Before the Earth Had Yet Begun VU 301 Vs 2

**In that bright dawning of the world,
ere ocean surged or wind unfurled,
the vaults of heaven with praises rang,
the morning stars together sang.**

Call to Worship:

One: From many different lands we gather on this land, in this place, at this time.

All: God is with us, God of the earth, the land, the sky.

One: In difficult times, in difficult places, in strange and unknown lands,

**All: people gather to worship God in spirit and truth,
and God is always here...
always near, watching, waiting, listening, breathing,
in spirit and in truth.**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**In soil bringing seed to life, in rocks holding the mysteries
of time, in prairies alive with wind-blown grain, in
mountains holding hearts on high: You, Holy One, are
present. You are the life of all life and all creation is blessed.
Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: Lord, Speak To Me VU 589

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Sherri J Weinberg

God - heart of the world:
revealed through every aspect of creation:
understood through our awareness.
May we honour the holiness of creation and act accordingly
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.
May we always be thankful for the food we eat
and the friends we have.
May we forgive those who transgress against us
and be forgiven for our own.
In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat
and not be compromised by hesitation.
Through our freedom, may your justice
be seen and heard and experienced
forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise: Jesus, Friend of Little Children VU 340
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

One: We are dust.

All: We shall return to dust.

One: The land is filled with treasure.

All: We have taken treasure from the land and left it broken.

One: The land is rich to nourish and sustain.

All: We strip it of goodness, turning fertile plains into wastelands.

One: The land is plentiful and full of variety.

All: We fight for control, from desire for more; it becomes killing-fields instead of sanctuary.

One: The land cries out in agony and the people cry out in misery. The land longs for mercy,

All: and the people yearn for comfort and care.

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance:

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Exodus 14: 19-31

Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21 "*Song of the Sea*" VU 876

Matthew 18: 21-35

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn of Reflection: Jesus Stand Among Us

VU 396

Reflection:

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Sung Response: Grateful

adapted MV 182

**Grateful for the life you give us,
Thankful for your Holy Son
Joyful in your Spirit flowing
Over all, O God of love.
Grateful for the bread of Heaven,**

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----- cont.

**Thankful for your Holy Word,
Joyful in your mercy flowing,
We will Praise you.**

Dedicating our Gifts: (All)

**Among the streets of business and in places of healing and learning, may we work to renew the face of the earth.
Among the budding orchards and in the cultivated fields, may we celebrate the renewing face of the earth. Among the tired and broken families, may we compassionately renew the face of the earth. Among these people and with these gifts, may the face of the earth be renewed.**

(Adapted Margie Abbot/sc)

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: When Hands Reach Out MV 169 vs 1

**When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.**

**Closing Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU 651

Commissioning and Blessing:

**Choral Amen: Go Now in Peace – Don Besig

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

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Except where otherwise noted, today's service prayers are adapted from Prayers for All Seasons, Year A, Seasons of the Spirit Collection, © 2016 Wood Lake Publishing Inc., Kelowna, BC V4V 1S5

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Heather Donnelly, LLWL
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – May Houston
Tellers – Bob Fisher and Mary Grant
Hospitality – Diane Robinson
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

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