



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



5th Sunday of Easter
 Camping Sunday
 April 28, 2024 11:30 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Open My Eyes VU 371

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 Christ Candle

**Introit: (Pass It On) It Only Takes a Spark VU 289
**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
 and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
 that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:
 you spread God's love to everyone,
 you want to pass it on.**

Call to Worship:

One: We are summoned here by our holy God,
All: who calls us each by name, and gathers us together in the unity of Christ.

One: From home and community, from camps and classrooms,

All: we are called into God's presence.

One: Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,

All: we hear our names being called to join in worship.

One: This house of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:

All: unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts. Let us worship together!

**Opening Hymn: Never Ending Joy MV 40

Gathering Prayer: (All)

Creator God, we hear your wilderness cry from the depth of our souls and long to answer. We seek you out in the silence and beauty of nature, in the sound of the birds, the rustling trees, the lapping water, and the crunching of branches. Our eyes and ears are opened to your presence in the newness of day, the brisk air, and the colours of the sunrise. Be with us in this time of storytelling and memories, guiding us along the forest's edge into oneness with you. May we follow faithfully the way of Jesus in this and all the paths of our lives. Amen.

Karen Bridges and Shauna Gibbons

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: M. Furlong, The St. Hilda Community
**God, who cares for us,
 The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.**

**Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world.
 Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.
 Give us the food and the hope we need for today.**

**Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and from despair
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.**

**In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go.
Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise: Like a Healing Stream MV 144
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

One: Dear God, we love your creation,

All: yet sometimes refuse to care enough for it.

One: We love our neighbours as you have taught us,

All: yet sometimes we hurt them or refuse to allow our differences to transform us.

One: Your love for us surrounds us in every way,

All: yet sometimes we fail to acknowledge it.

One: Guide us to do, say, and think according to your will.

All: Guide us to live in respectful relationship with creation.

One: And when there are temptations that lead us away from you,

All: we ask that you set us aright, yet again.

Time for Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Psalm 22 – VU 746 Parts 3&4

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

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

All: Thanks be to God

**Hymn of Reflection: By the Well, A Thirsty Woman MV 117

Reflection

Special Music: O when the Saints Go Marching In

Responding

Presentation of our Gifts:

Sung Response: This is My Body MV 177 Verse 3

**You are my body, born of my breathing;
you are my hands, wrinkled or smooth;
as you are living, learn to be loving,
give me the best that you have.**

Prayer of Dedication:

**Loving God, accept the gifts of our time, talent, and tithes
for the work of your church, in this community and
beyond. We share what we have so that the warmth and
light of your love will spread to everyone, and we shout
from the mountaintops: *Pass it on.* Amen.**

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: Spirit God, Be Our Breath MV 150 vs 1

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...
Spirit God, be our song.**

**Closing Hymn: We Shall Go Out VU 586

Commissioning and Blessing:

**Choral Amen: God Says MV 172 vs 1

**God says, "Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.
If you will listen, you will know
I'm with you always where you go."**

Postlude: How Great Thou Art VU 238

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

Usher – Jean Fisher
Teller – May Houston
Reader – Jennifer Abbott
Hospitality – Annemarie Manson
Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

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