

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



1st Sunday of Creation
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023 11:30 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Come Let Us Sing of A Wonderful Love VU 574

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 1

**Before the earth had yet begun
its journey round the burning sun,
before a seed of life had stirred,
there sounded God's creating Word.**

Call to Worship:

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol God, all peoples!
**For great is God's steadfast love toward us;
and the faithfulness of the Lord Endures for ever.**
Praise the Lord.

Opening Prayer: (All)

You are worthy of all praise, O God, more than could ever flow from our mouths. The birds sing of your glory; the day's sun rises to honour you. The mountains owe their grandeur to your design for creation; the seas have all your creatures! We join with your creation to praise your name. Amen

**Opening Hymn: Come in, Come in and Sit Down VU 395 vs 1,2&4

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: adaptation by Jim Cotter

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 echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
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, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, 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.

**Hymn of Praise: Creator God You Gave Us Life MV 27
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Forgive us, O God when we hinder Christ's gospel. We distort the good news because we do not serve our neighbour. We seek safety rather than suffer for Christ. Our comfort comes before our confession; our allegiance is hindered, since we hid from commitment. Have mercy upon our misplaced devotion, and in Christ hear our confession as we seek to repent. Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

The good news of the gospel is what God promised to those before us. God's covenant has been fulfilled in the raising of Jesus. Let it be known that through Jesus, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. All who believe are thereby freed from their bondage. In Christ is new life for all who repent.

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Romans 12:1-13
Matthew 16:21-28

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

Hymn of Reflection: To Show By Touch and Word VU 427

Reflection:

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

O God, we offer these gifts to you as you bestow them abundantly to us. Take them and blend them into our commitment. Empower our hands to reach out to others. Enlighten our minds to perceive clearly your will. May the gist we offer support your people. Amen

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

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: Joyful Joyful We Adore You VU 232

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.**

Postlude: We Shall Go Out VU 586

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Worship Leader – Reverend Lisa Greenwood
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher –
Tellers –
Hospitality –
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

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