



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



5th Sunday after Epiphany
 February 4, 2024 11:30 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Like a River of Tears MV 98

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: A Light is Gleaming (refrain) VU 82
**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
 throughout the night, living in the light.
 Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
 is burning bright, living in the light.**

Call to Worship:

One: God enters our village today to the laughter of our children

All: **The graciousness of our elders**

One: The excitement of our friends

All: **The songs we sing.**

One: God has come to us, to lift the burdens that we carry,

All: **Bringing the peace that we seek, and the hope that we cling to.**

God enters our village today, and we receive the Spirit gladly.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

Loving Creator, we gather to celebrate Black History Month, and we come in thanksgiving and with reverence. As we meet today, we pray that our hearts be opened to hearing the stories—current and past—of our Black siblings. We celebrate and honour them for all they have contributed to our world, our villages, and to us personally. Bless our time together this day. In the reading of scripture, the prayers of our hearts, and the joy of meeting with each other, may your presence known, Amen.

**Opening Hymn: The Church is Wherever VU 579

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Parker J. Palmer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
 Holy and blessed is your true name.
 We pray for your reign of peace to come.
 We pray that your good will be done.
 Let heaven and earth become one.
 Give us this day the bread we need.
 Give it to those who have none.
 Let forgiveness flow like a river between us.
 From each one to each one.
 Lead us to holy innocence.
 Beyond the evil of our days
 Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
 For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
 Forever your name is All in One.**

****Hymn of Praise: O Beautiful Gaia** MV 41
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection:

One: Merciful God, we come with humble hearts, bringing our shortcomings and failures.

All: We confess that at times we have hindered another's blessing by the words we speak and the actions we have taken.

One: Forgive us when we have failed to support, encourage, or uplift those in need.

All: Forgive us when we have undermined the dreams and aspirations of others or when we have withheld our assistance out of fear and indifference. In your grace lead us to a path of restoration and healing.

Time for Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147 VU 868-869, Part One

1 Cor. 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

****Hymn of Reflection: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry** VU 644

Reflection

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts:

Sung Response: Christ Has No Body Now But Yours MV 171 refrain
**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Prayer of Dedication:

Loving God, accept these gifts. Bless them and use them to bring peace to places of unrest, love to places of hate, joy to places of fear, hope to places of loss, and equal rights and justice for all. Amen

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: May We But Wait MV 175
**May we but wait upon Love's word,
Knowing our prayer is heard.**
Repeat

****Closing Hymn: Ka Mana'o 'I 'O** MV 103

Commissioning and Benediction:

****Choral Amen: May God's Sheltering Wings** MV 214
**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.**

Postlude: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 375

Unless otherwise noted, service prayers for today's service were adapted from Jesus in the Village, A Service for Black History Month by the Rev. Charmain Bailey. © 2024 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

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

Usher – Mary-Anne Blakney
Tellers – Bob Fisher

Hospitality – Annemarie Manson
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

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