



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



24th Sunday after Pentecost
 November 12, 2023 11:30 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: Sweet Hour of Prayer – Alan Jackson, arr. B&L Cassidy

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: The Web of Life – Maria Case
 A strand in the web of life let me be,
 a string on the harp that the Spir-it plays,
 At one with the sky and earth and the sea,
 In the web of life let me be, let me be,
 in the web of life let me be.

Call to Worship:

One: We have been called to walk the faithful road and to choose the way of God's justice.

All: We are here because we believe strongly that our God is good, and that we live in that goodness. We are here to proclaim our faith and to seek direction along the faith journey.

One: Come together, then, to be God's people. Follow Christ and listen to the good things that God has done. Rise up in praise and thanksgiving!

All: We will share with others the goodness that we have found in God. May our lives be an expression of that goodness.

One: Let us continue in prayer

Touch Holiness, R. Duck & M. Tirabassi

Gathering Prayer: (All)

Faithful God, you care for our needs like a loving father or mother. When we seek you, you make yourself known to us. When we knock at heaven's door, you open your heart to us. When we ask, you give us the gift of your Holy Spirit. Receiving your forgiveness, we are enabled to forgive others. Trusting in your great love, may we daily persist in prayer, and weekly assemble to worship you, ready always to receive your gifts, through the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Touch Holiness, R. Duck & M. Tirabassi

**Opening Hymn: Thine is the Glory

VU 173

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: Teach Me, God, to Wonder VU 299
Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection: (in unison)

**God who loves us, you have always given us what we need.
You have taken care of us even when we could not care for
ourselves. You have given us life and breath. Why is it that
we still doubt you? Why do we still go on our own way,
rebellling against you? Why do we persist in doing
everything our own way? God, we have hurt ourselves and
others by being so fiercely independent. Give us courage to
place our trust in you.**

silent reflection-

**Through the constant presence of the Spirit, we pray.
Amen.**

Touch Holiness, R. Duck & M. Tirabassi

Words of Assurance

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Hebrews 10: 11-18

Responsive Psalm 145 *Prayers Before An Awesome God*

One: Holy One, Mentor and Teacher! No name can express
how great you are.

**All: Throughout all time each generation tells of what
you have done.**

One: When I take time to think about it, I am filled with
happiness.

**All: You God are always helpful, always generous,
always listening, ready to be there for us no matter
what.**

One: We are grateful that we have such a God; we feel so
blessed and filled with power unknown before!

All: You, God, will always support us and help us to keep

moving when we feel paralyzed.

One: Those who looked to you, God, receive your
unconditional love.

**All: Your hands are never closed to us – always open,
ready to embrace us.**

One: You always keep your words, you are always nearby,
you help us to feel alive and worthy!

All: I will praise you, always! Amen.

Matthew 23: 1-12

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

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn of Reflection: Be Still, My Soul VU 652

Reflection: Honest and Sincere Spirituality

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts:

Sung Response: For the Gift of Creation VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,**

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Prayers of the Community:

Sung 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: May the God of Hope Go With Us VU 424

Commissioning and Blessing:

**Choral Amen: We Are One

VU 402 vs 4

**We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move
together from this place.**

Postlude:

We Shall Go Out

VU 586

OFFICE

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Worship Leader – Marlene Phillips
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Mary-Anne Blakney
Tellers – Jennifer Abbott and May Houston
Hospitality – Annemarie Manson
Music Team – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy,
Libby Cassidy and Anthony Lecaillon

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