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



## 5th Sunday of Creation Thanksgiving Sunday October 8, 2023 11:30 a.m.



### WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude: Called By Earth and Sky MV 135

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: We Are One

VU 402 Vs 1

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here, in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near. We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found; and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

Call to Worship:

One: We have built a house of God where everyone is welcome.

All: We come here to extend that welcome.

One: We have built a house of God where we can share our dreams and sorrows, and just be ourselves.

All: We come here to support each other in celebration and in compassion.

One: We have built a house of God

where we can sing and pray and praise.

All: We come here openly without fear of reprisal.

One: We have built this house of God

where we can worship.

All: We come here to worship now.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

This is God's house, a sanctuary where we are safe, a place where we are reminded of God's magnificent creation,

a place where we are reminded of Jesus' promise of Hope and Love,

and a place of quiet contemplation
where we are filled with the Holy Spirit.
A place in which we can work together
to meet the needs of the larger community.
We gather here in God's house to worship together
with our church family. Amen.

\*\*Opening Hymn: Before the Earth Had Yet Begun VU 301

Intergenerational Time: One Came Back

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.

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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: **Small Things Count** VU 361 Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Prayer of Self Reflection: (in unison)

Creator God, we know how to say Thank you, but so often we rush through our lives and fail to pause and give genuine, heartfelt thanks for our lives, family, friends, health, shelter, food in abundance, rich growing soil, clean air, clean water, peace in our land.

Help us to pause often to think about all the things which we have in abundance, and let us give thanks for this bounty. Personally, we have so much to thank you for and yet, we also have needs which we now bring to you in silence.

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance

**Exploring** 

Words from Our Bible:

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Responsive Psalm 65 VU 782

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

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

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn of Reflection: For the Fruit of All Creation VU 227

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Reflection:

Special Music:

Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts: (in unison)

Especially at this time of year, at Thanksgiving and at Harvest time, the abundance that we have is evident. When we look at our cram-packed calendars, we sometimes fail to recognize that they are full because of our choices. When we think about the things we are able to do, such as sing, usher, count offering, tell stories, bake or greet people, we are hesitant to put forth our names. All that we have is what we have been given, gifts that we are meant to use wisely and use for others. Help us to put our thanks into action by giving of what we have received. Amen

Sung Response: adapted MV 182 Grateful 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

> 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: Let All Things Now Living

VU 242

MV 169 vs 1

Commissioning and Blessing:

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\*\*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: Praise With Joy the World's Creator VU 312

OFFICE (506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Worship Leader – Mary Grant, LLWL Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Robert Christie
Tellers – Bob Fisher and Lorna McKnight
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.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

Harvest moon tells us October is near.

Now the magic of nature is painting the tree.

Our eyes now feast on the colourful leaves.

Let's give thanks for produce we've grown this year.

On this day of Thanksgiving we recall our many many blessings that each of us receives. May they always teach us to be thankful each day. Let all be grateful to live in a land where we're free to pursue a career we hope will give us a sense of fulfillment and let us assist others find joy in living. As I see all this taking place, I give thanks I live in a free land to do so. What is your list?

By Robert Hawkes