



Forest Hill United Church  
*'open doors, open hearts, open minds'*  
Indigenous Day of Prayer  
11th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 4, 2024 10:00 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

Prelude:            There's a Wideness in God's Mercy            VU 271

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. We are all Treaty People. In and with God, we will direct our lives toward the right relationships with one another in respect and harmony.**

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:            Let Us Build a House            MV 1 vs 1

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

Call to Worship:

Leader: Grace and peace be with you,

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: We gather today in prayer and thanksgiving for our celebration of the Indigenous Day of Prayer.

**People: Creator, be with us as we journey forward in a good way.**

Leader: We share scripture and stories that warm and challenge our heart.

**People: Creator, be with us as we listen in a good way.**

Leader: We sing with lightness and praise.

**People: Creator, be with us as we respond in a good way.**

Opening Prayer: *(together)*

**Loving and ever present Creator, we ask in the time together that we have open hearts and minds to hear your Word and be reminded that we are all Spirit first. The grass around us, the feathers of the birds, the eagles, the trees and the rocks and the frog, we are all connected; we are all part of creation. Amen**

\*\*Opening Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word VU 313

Prayer of Self Reflection:

**Great loving Spirit, you travel with us on so many paths. Some trails are straight and easy to navigate, but others are very difficult, windy, and up steep hills. We confess that sometimes, when things get tough, we haven't always followed your teachings or done things in a good way. Sometimes we found it too taxing to sit still and listen to our Elders for the wisdom they bring. Other times, Creator, we just did not show up. We ask for forgiveness when we know we could have done better.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

Words of Assurance:

Sharing Time: This Little Light of Mine

\*\*Hymn of Praise: Alleluia, Praise to God

MV 59

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Matthew 5: 14-16

Galations 3: 23-29

Paraphrase of Psalm 106: 1-5

*paraphrase from UCC Worship Resources,*

*Indigenous Day of Prayer Service 2022: All My Relations*

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

All: **Thanks be to God**

Message:

Special Music:

## Responding

Presentation of our Gifts:

Sung Response: What Can I Do?

MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?**

**What can I say? What can I sing?**

**I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.**

**I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Prayer of Dedication: *(together)*

**We return some of the abundance of our lives to share  
with others who need a caring touch.**

**Here is the work of our hands, and here is the love of  
our hearts.**

**Accept them and use them, through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*from UCC Worship Resources,*

*Indigenous Day of Prayer Service 2022: All My Relations*

## Prayers of the People

Great Spirit, Creator of all, we come before you in gratitude and reverence, lifting up the prayers of our hearts. We join our voices in this sacred space with humility and love, seeking your guidance, wisdom, and strength.

For the healing of the land and the renewal of our relationship with Mother Earth, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.**

For the wisdom of Indigenous leaders and Elders, that their teachings may inspire us to travel together in unity and respect, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.**

For the survivors of residential schools and their families, that they may find healing, comfort, and justice, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.**

For the ongoing work of reconciliation and the building of strong, respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.**

For the courage to confront and dismantle systemic racism, colonialism, and injustice, and for the wisdom to create a more equitable and compassionate society, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, hear our prayer.**

For the Sacred Drum, that its rhythm may continue to unite us in harmony with the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the voices of our ancestors, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.**

For the churches and faith communities seeking to be instruments of peace, justice, and reconciliation, that they may be guided by your Spirit and sustained by your grace, we pray:

**All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.**

In the silence of our hearts, we lift up our personal prayers and petitions, trusting in your loving presence and care (*a moment of silence is observed*)...

Great Spirit, hear the prayers of your people, spoken and unspoken. May we be bearers of your love, justice, and compassion as we travel together on this journey of healing and reconciliation. In your holy name, we pray.

**Amen.**

An Indigenous Lord's Prayer

**Great Spirit, our Creator, who is in all places,  
Sacred is your name.**

**May your wisdom guide us,  
Your will be done in our lives, as it is throughout  
Creation.**

**Provide for us today the nourishment we need,  
And forgive us our wrongs, as we forgive those who  
have wronged us.**

**Lead us on the path of understanding and respect,  
And protect us from ignorance and harm.**

**For you are the source of all power, beauty, and love,  
From generation to generation, forever and always.**

**Amen.**

*Prayers of the People and An Indigenous Lord's Prayer are from UCC Worship Resources, Indigenous Day of Prayer service 2023 The Sacred Drum*

## We Go Out As God's People

**\*\*Blessing Hymn: All the Way My Saviour Leads Me VU 635**

**\*\*Commissioning and Benediction:**

**Postlude: Great is Thy Faithfulness VU 288**

Except where noted otherwise, much of this service is from, or has been adapted from the UCC Worship Resources: [Indigenous Day of Prayer 2024: We are All Spirit First](#)

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## Forest Hill United Church



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Worship Leader – Mary Grant, LLWL

Reverend Eunkyū Ji, [rev.ekji@gmail.com](mailto:rev.ekji@gmail.com)

Tue. and Thur. at Forest Hill, 9 am - 12 pm or by appointment

Wed. and Fri. at Gibson Memorial, 9 am - 12 pm or by appointment

Usher – May Houston

Teller – Robert Christie

Reader –

Hospitality – Diane Robinson

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

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<Our Cooperative Ministry Partner>

## Gibson Memorial United Church



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