



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



15th Sunday after Pentecost
 September 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: VU 402, “We Are One”

Welcome:

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:

From God, the creator of the light of heaven, comes “every good gift and every perfect gift” (James 1:17). God’s light is a gift of grace for all people and creation. As we light the Christ candle, may our hearts yearn to be closer to God this morning.

****Introit:** MV 1, “Let Us Build a House” (v.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:

Creator, you bless us with the heavenly lights—

**the moon that waxes and wanes,
the planets that whirl around the sun,
the galaxies that wink from afar.**

In the darkness you call out, “Let there be light,”
and the universe is filled with heavenly light.

You are our creator, too,

the One who formed us and who forms us still.

May your word of truth ring out today
with your call to new life!

Thanks be to God. Hallelujah.

Rebecca Gaudino, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Opening Prayer: (together)

**O God, as we journey from the relaxing warm days of
summer into the excitement and bustle of back-to-work
and back-to-school routines, we pause to seek your
guidance and blessing, God.**

**We ask you to bless the work of our hands at home, school,
work, church, and community. Help us to build your world
of Shalom through all that we do.**

**Open us to new opportunities, new people coming into our
lives, and your voice speaking to us. Fill us with the love
and compassion of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

The Whole People of God 2021

****Opening Hymn: MV 42, “Praise God for This Holy Ground”**

Prayer of Self Reflection: (in unison)

**Ever-faithful God, you create each of us
to be a presence of healing and love in our world.
You equip us to resist intentions and actions
that hurt ourselves and others.**

**Forgive us when we forget your desire for us.
Forgive us when we put aside your vision.
Remind us of the love and goodness
that you have planted within us.
Draw our hearts close to you
and bless us as we live in your ways.
Now, we come closer to God in quiet time.
Lord, embrace us with your mercy and love.
(Time for Silent Prayer)**

Words of Assurance:

God has chosen to give us new life. This is God's choice,
given freely to us, as is every other good gift God has given.
Rejoice in this good news!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Rebecca Gaudino, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Sharing Time:

****Hymn of Praise:** MV 30, "It's a Song of Praise for the Maker"

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Diane Robinson

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Thanks be to God

Message:

Special Music: MV 73, "O God Why Are You Silent"

American Tune

Responding

Announcements:

Presentation of our Gifts:

God calls us to a devotion that is pure and faultless. What does such devotion look like? Caring for those in a world with big needs and little hope. Let us give as generously as God has given to us.

Rebecca Gaudino, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Sung Response: MV 191, “What Can I Do?”

**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)

**God of every good gift,
bless the gifts of our resources, our prayers, and our
lives.
Bless these gifts for the good of others and to honour
your name. Amen.**

Rebecca Gaudino, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer:

- Sharing thanks or concerns
- The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (01 - 07 September 2024): Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

**Our Father-Mother, who is in heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Alternate versions of the Prayer of Jesus, VU. p.916

We Go Out As God's People

****Blessing Hymn:** MV 144, "Like a Healing Stream"

****Commissioning and Benediction:**

God conceived us as children of light and grace.

We will reveal God's love and mercy in the world.

God conceived the earth as a place of communion and hope.

We will share hope and care in the world.

God has sent us here as midwives for God's holy dream.

God will grant us strength and faith and work with the whole world, waiting for the birth of justice and goodness.

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of us, now and forever.

Amen.

Rebecca Gaudino, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Postlude: VU 266, "Amazing Grace "

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Forest Hill United Church



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Worship Leader – Reverend Eunkyū Ji

Reverend Eunkyū Ji, 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 – Annemarie Manson

Teller – May Houston

Reader – Diane Robinson

Hospitality – Diane Robinson

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy, Libby Cassidy
and Heather Fyffe.

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

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

<Cooperative Ministry Partner>

Gibson Memorial United Church



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the website.

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