



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



Creation 1 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)
September 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

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

Prelude: VU 409, "Morning Has Broken"

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:

Blessed be the name of God, God of our ancestors, God of the generations yet to come. Blessed be the Creating God, Redeeming Saviour and the Sustaining Spirit.

We gather together and listen to the groans of creation and our siblings' cries. As we light the candle of Christ, we bring the seeds of our hope, the first fruits of the Spirit.

Rev Sikawu, SEASON OF CREATION 2024

****Introit:** VU 301, "Before the Earth Had Yet Begun" (v.1)

**Before the earth had yet begun
its journey round the burning sun,
before a seed of life had stirred,
there sounded God's creating Word.**

Call to Worship:

Place your trust in God.

God's faithfulness is unshakeable.

May our worship this day strengthen our faith.

May our faithfulness be unshakeable.

May our words and actions be good and true.

May we grow in godliness each and every day.

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Opening Prayer: (together)

God of the heavens and of the earth, Creation sings of the good you have done! As birds migrate and squirrels store up, we, too, prepare for what autumn brings.

We resume familiar patterns that follow the school year, no matter when we took our last class. We harvest vegetables and wait for leaves to turn their beautiful array of colours. Shorter days mean more hours to enjoy the stars, and so we gather to celebrate everything you have given to us.

Open our hearts to notice the abundant blessings of this time and this place, and guide us to ways that expand that blessing for others. Amen.

Brian Curtis, Gathering, Pentecost 2 2024

****Opening Hymn: MV 28, "God of the Bible"**

Prayer of Self Reflection: (in unison)

Creator God, you create all people in your image.

When we neglect the needs of the poor,
raise our commitment to care for others
and to help create justice for all.

When favouritism and prejudice blind us,
and when we exclude and demean others,
focus us on your inclusive love, a love that welcomes us
and calls us to welcome others.

Live in us and through us, that our lives and our actions
may reflect your image in all that we say and in all that we do.
Now, we move into a quiet time for deep conversation with
God.

O Lord, embrace us with your mercy and love.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Words of Assurance:

God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good. In God's goodness, we touch goodness. In God's love, we receive love. We find fellowship with God's people in God's grace and mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Sharing Time:

****Hymn of Praise:** MV 37, "Each Blade of Grass"

Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse

Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Psalm 125 VU p. 849

Mark 7: 24-37

Mary Grant

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

Thanks be to God

Message:

Special Music:

Responding

Announcements:

Presentation of our Gifts:

In this time of creation, we consider how we can share justice, grace, and generosity in the world God has created.

We all need to share and enjoy God's abundance—whether through giving, volunteering, small acts of restoration of creation, or in any way we feel called to do so.

Offering Invitations and Prayers 2024, the UCC

Sung Response: MV 182, “Grateful” (short, modified version)

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication: (*together*)

God of the land, the sea, the sky, Creator of all seen and unseen.

Open our hearts to the rhythm of Creation in the swells of the ocean, the movements of air and wind, and the breath of all living things.

Open our eyes to the fragile beauty of the biodiversity of which we are a part. Open our ears to the sounds of life around us. Open our minds to the awareness of our deep relationship with all your Creation.

Help us maintain hope that your reign of love is manifested in our common love for you, for ourselves, and for our neighbours—both human and non-human.

Creator God, may we hope and act with Creation. Amen.

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer:

- Sharing thanks or concerns
- The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 08 - 14 September 2024): Ghana, Nigeria

**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 161, "I Have Called You By Your Name"

****Commissioning and Benediction:**

May God who can set Creation free, show us his glory.

Glory to God.

May God who knows our groaning and crying,
bring about new life.

Now and always.

May God, who helps us in our weakness,
give us the first fruits of hope.

The Lord is our hope.

And may the Triune God sprinkle into our hearts
the dew of God's grace and bless us all.

Amen.

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

Postlude: VU 651, "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

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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 – Mary Grant

Teller – Jean Fisher

Reader – Mary Grant

Hospitality – May Houston

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



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