



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



Creation 2  
17th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

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

**Prelude:** MV 10, “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”

**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:**

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The firmament proclaims the work of God’s hands. What wisdom do we hear? What wisdom do we share? This Christ candle reminds us that the Holy One has come to us in this time, in this place, as light, to be with us.

\*\***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:**

Let us enter this place together, ready to worship with thanksgiving for the abundance of God that we experience every day.

**God gave us a wide and wondrous world in which to live.**

Here, in this holy place, in community, surrounded by the wonders of God’s glorious Creation, we will worship with prayer, song, hearts, and minds.

**This is the day that God has made!**

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

*Allison Abbott-Wiebe, Gathering, Pentecost 2 2024*

**Opening Prayer: (together)**

We have faith in one God, one Source of all life, one Ground of the whole Earth, who created all things good.

And we have faith in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear God’s likeness in working and caring for Creation, in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers, in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.

And we have faith in God’s Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate life-style.

So that the Earth is inherited in peace, her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.

So be it. Amen.

*Sinfonia Oecumenica, Season of Creation 2024*

**\*\*Opening Hymn: VU 226, “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

(tune: Dix)

**Sharing Time: “Grassy Narrows River Run”**

**Prayer of Self Reflection: “Support the River Run”**

Shepherding God,

as churches across these lands ring bells of liberty and love:

lead us on the path to justice,

lead us on the path to freedom,

lead us on the path of healing, and  
lead us on the path to solidarity  
as we journey with the youth and community members of  
Grassy Narrows,  
and join them in the fight for environmental justice.  
May these bells stir us towards resounding actions,  
until all have access to clean waters,  
and the abundant life that such waters provides.  
Guide us, Great Shepherd, today and every day, on the path  
that leads to the flourishing of your Good Creation.  
*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

**Words of Assurance:**

*(Ring bells)*

**God embraces us with love and grace, now and forever.  
Thanks be to God of Creation. Amen.**

*River Run 2024, The UCC*

**\*\*Hymn of Praise:** VU 567, “Will You Come and Follow Me”  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse.*

## Exploring

**Words from Our Bible:**

Psalm 116:1-9

Mark 8:27-38

Joan Mitchell

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:**

We are called to love our neighbours and the world, to pray for them, and to act on our prayers. Our offering today is one way we respond to this call through our ministry, mission, and service. Let us thank God and share the abundance we have received with our neighbours and the world.

*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)**

For your holy Word, O God, we give you thanks.  
For your enduring Wisdom, O God, we give you praise.  
For your call to speak truth, O God, we give you glory.  
Grant us the courage to share your gifts, this day and all days.  
Amen.

*Kirsten Linford, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

## **Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer:**

- Sharing thanks or concerns
- The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (15 - 21 September 2024): Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

*[www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle)*

**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:** VU 589, "Lord, Speak to Me"

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

People of God, let us go into the world and proclaim God's blessing and grace in word and action.

**The Creator God has given us a mouth to praise God, a tongue to bless God's people, and hands and feet to care for this God's beloved world.**

**(All) We will go out into the world and share God's grace and peace with one another.**

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

**Amen.**

**Postlude:** VU 238, "How Great Thou Art"



**To hope and act with Creation (Romans 8:19-25)**



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# Forest Hill United Church



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## OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Reverend Eunkyū Ji

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 – Bob Fisher

Reader – Joan Mitchell

Hospitality – Diane Robinson

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy, Libby Cassidy,

Heather Fyffe and Caileigh Sullivan

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

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

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<Cooperative Ministry Partner>

## Gibson Memorial United Church



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