



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, September 10, 2023, 10:30am**

Rev. Jean Ward
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

2.

***Indicates when the congregation is to stand, if able.**

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

***Processional Hymn** Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost

VU #193 (verses 2, 3, 4 and 5)

*Love is kind, and suffers long;
love is humble, thinks no wrong;
love than death itself more strong;
therefore give us love.*

*Prophecy will fade away,
melting in the light of day;
love will ever with us stay;
therefore give us love.*

*Faith will vanish into sight;
hope be emptied in delight;
love in heaven will shine more bright;
therefore give us love.*

*Faith and hope and love we see
joining hand in hand agree;
but the greatest of the three,
and the best, is love.*

Gathering Prayer A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

*Dear God,
Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share:
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to
protect the wonders of creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and
to know them as family.
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live
off the land and sea, and to hear and understand those
who extract its resources.*

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free,

And it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

(Prayer from Carol Gallagher, Member of the Cherokee Nation, Bishop in the Episcopal Church, and Regional Canon, Diocese of Massachusetts)

Introit

Faith, Hope and Love Abide

E. Daley

Faith, hope and love abide,
these three; but the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sharing Peace

In Christ we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us.

We see God within us.

We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the love God has instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

I invite you to care and share peace with your neighbour, and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

(from *Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes*, 2023)

Scripture Readings

John 1:35-39

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13

At present we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, but one day we shall see face to face. My knowledge now is partial; then it will be whole, like God's knowledge of me.

There are three things that last forever: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of the three is love.

Poem Prayer Leavings

Wendell Berry (2012)

"I know that I have life
only insofar as I have love.

I have no love
except it come from Thee.

Help me, please, to carry
this candle against the wind."

Anthem The Meditations of My Heart

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.
O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength,
O Lord my God and my Redeemer.
(based on Psalm 19:14)

Reflection The Beloved Community

Rev. Jean Ward

Offertory Anthem Go Forth Into the World

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
 hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
 help the afflicted; honour all people;
 love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 And the blessing of God Almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
 be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.
 (from the Book of Common Prayer, 1928)

***Presentation of the Offering**

*In gratitude and humble trust
 We bring our best today,
 To serve your cause and share your love
 With all along life's way.
 O God, who gave yourself to us
 In Jesus Christ, your Son,
 Teach us to give ourselves each day
 Until life's work is done.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.*

Living Our Mission

***Recessional Hymn** We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)

VU #595

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and share the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

***Blessing**

*As we have been blessed,
so we bless one another to be a blessing.
Breathe in,
breathe out,
this breath we share with all that breathes.
Feel the love of the universe
flowing through this community,
into you,
and out into the universe again.
Let the love of all the universe—your love—
flow outward, to its height, its depth, its broad extent.
You are more than you know,
and more beloved than you know.
Take up what power is yours to create safe haven,
to make of earth a heaven.*

*Give hope to those you encounter,
that they may know safety from inner and outer harm,
be happy and at peace,
healthy and strong,
caring and joyful.
Be the blessing you already are.
That is enough.
Blessed Be;
Amen.*

(Adapted from the Karaniya Metta Sutta [Sunna Nipata 1.8] of the Pali Canon)

*Choral Commissioning

E. Daley

(The choir will sing through once, and then the congregation is invited to join in.)

*May God's love surround you,
may God's wisdom guide you,
may God's light shine upon you,
until we meet again.*

Postlude

This morning's recessional hymn text is reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945. *We Are Pilgrims*, words by Richard Gillard, © 1977 Scripture in Song. All rights reserved.

Minister – Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
cameron@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Associate Minister – Rev. Jean Ward
jean@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Director of Music – Eleanor Daley
eleanor@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Administrator – Joanne Christie
joanne@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Bookkeeper – Heather de la Rua
heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Website:
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/>

Events Calendar:
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**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church**
28 Fairlawn Avenue
Toronto, ON M5M 1S7
T: 416-481-6848



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Welcome to Fairlawn Avenue United Church

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Minister of Pastoral Care, Word, and Sacrament

Cam is an energetic, compassionate, optimistic leader who challenges the status quo, takes risks to find creative solutions and encourages these behaviours in others. He is an ardent advocate for the marginalized and Co-Chair of the interfaith Faith in the City organization. His graduate studies in organizational culture, development and change enhance his ability to understand churches and be committed to agility in the way we operate. Prior to being admitted as a United Church minister in 2017, Cam was a Baptist pastor for more than 30 years, eventually opting for the inclusiveness of the United Church. Cam demonstrates curiosity, courage, creativity, and a capacity to seek and find joy amidst life's challenges and complexities. He is also an avid cyclist, dog lover, reader, and writer of murder mysteries for his own enjoyment. Cam is a lifelong learner who loves spending time with his grandchildren and thinks church should be like summer camp – you're not sure you want to go but don't want to leave when it's over.

Meet the Minister!

We are coordinating introductory meetings with Cam on Wednesday, September 13 & 20 between 11:00am and 3:00pm, to provide you with the opportunity to come and get to know him and chat. To schedule your appointment, reach out to Joanne at joanne@fairlawnavenueunited.ca.