



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.

FOMO

Fear of Missing Out

**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, October 22, 2023 10:30am**

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

There is a table at the front of the sanctuary with stars on it. They are kindled in the light of the Christ Candle. Before we begin we invite you to come and pick up one or two. You may keep one for yourself, as a reminder that you bear the image of the heavenly. You may take another for the moment in the service when we pass the peace, to offer to another, to thank them for bringing Creation's light to your life. Or to simply say "peace to you".

2.

Welcome and Acknowledgements

***Opening Hymn** Give to the Winds Your Fears

VU #636

*Give to the winds your fears.
Hope and be undismayed.
God hears your sighs and counts your tears.
God shall lift up your head.*

*Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears your way.
Wait for the time, so shall the night
soon end in joyous day.*

*Even though you do not rule,
yet heaven and earth and hell
proclaim God sits upon the throne,
and rules o'er all things well.*

*Your everlasting truth,
O God, your ceaseless love,
sees all your children's wants, and knows
what best for each will prove.*

***Gathering Prayer¹**

[Silence]

**God of freedom, we pray for the nations of the world:
not for their governments nor borders, for their people.
For peace and unity across barriers of language, colour, and creed;
for leaders, that they would serve the common good.
Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred,
to have the courage to actively resist evil.
Unite the human family in bonds of love.**

**God of freedom,
hear our prayers for the world.**

[Silence]

**God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care:
For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your**

creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

**God of justice,
Hear our prayers for the earth.**

[Silence]

Hear our prayers, Holy One. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Teacher.

[Silence]

Finally, yet endlessly, we humbly ask for the courage to look for freedom and seek justice and break down barriers and stand between those who are committed to violence and their victims and say "You have to go through me," and "In the name of God, stop!"

***Introit**

New Every Morning

E. Daley

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life, and power, and thought. Amen.
(John Keble, 1792-1866)

Scripture Reading Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 (The Message)

Reader: June Rowe

Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.

But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.

4.

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

Anthem

Direct Us, Lord, Through Darkness

E. Daley

Direct us, Lord, through darkness to gain that keener sight,
Which draws the heart to ponder the farthest, faintest light,
The stars beyond their reaching that share the dust you formed,
To make us earthen creatures you breathed upon and warmed.

From your configuration of elemental dust
Arise our need and yearning to reach toward you in trust,
To live by faith that widens the wonder in the mind
That breath and flesh and planets and stars are intertwined.

The bonds of primal matter that link the earth and sky
Are deepened and extended by faith's alerted eye,
Which scans the stars recalling the one through whom we pray
Was born of dust and darkness and is our light and way. Amen.
(Thomas Troeger, 1945-2022)

Reflection

FOMO

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

***Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU #651

***Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.***

***Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.***

***When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.***

Living Our Mission and 'More Than One Story'

Peace of the Christ Candle

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem Prayer of St. Benedict

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Almighty God,
Give us wisdom to perceive you,
Intellect to understand you,
Diligence to seek you,
Patience to wait for you,
Eyes to behold you,
A heart to meditate upon you,
And a life to proclaim you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
(St. Benedict, 480-547)

***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.***

6.

***Sending Out** Song of Evening by Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart

The light fades
and western skies grow dim
Night falls
softly in the stillness
Winds die
Waves lap the shore
And God walks in the growing shadows
blessing Creation
at the close of another day.

We pause in holy stillness
And give up our cares to God
Receiving forgiveness
As we breathe in the coolness
Ancient stars appear
Time stops
And all is well.

***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

¹Excerpted and adapted from "Prayers of the People for Racial Reconciliation," Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.

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