



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, October 8, 2023, 10:30am
Thanksgiving Communion**

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".

Welcome and Acknowledgements

***Opening Hymn** We Plough the Fields

VU #520

***We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.***

***All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
we thank you God, O holy God, for all your love.***

***You only are the maker of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give us daily bread. R***

***We thank you then, O Maker, for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for, our humble, thankful hearts. R***

Gathering Prayer¹

For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.

***We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.***

***Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing***

***When even the common thornbush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.***

The Creator says, "I will fill your cup and then some."

We come now to receive.

Jesus says, "I bring abundant life to all."

We come now to share.

Spirit says, "I fill your hearts with love."

We come now to love.

Let us worship the Holy One.

Amen.

Introit

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

E. Daley

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of praise,
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.
(John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1811-1875)

The Peace of the Christ Candle

Scripture Readings Psalm 19, Exodus 20:1-17 (The Inclusive Bible)

Psalm 19

The heavens herald your glory, O God,
and the skies display your handiwork.
Day after day they tell their story,
And night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding.

Without speech, without words,
without even an audible voice,
their cry echoes through all the world,
and their message reaches the ends of the earth.

For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent.
It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession,
with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race.
It rises at one end of the sky
and travels to the other end,
and nothing escapes its warmth.

4.

Your law, YHWH, is perfect;
It refreshes the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted;
It gives wisdom to the naïve.

Your purposes, O God, are right;
They gladden the heart.
Your command is clear;
It gives light to the eyes.

Holding you in awe, YHWH, is purifying;
it endures.
Your decrees are steadfast,
and all of them just.
They are more precious than gold,
than the purest of gold,
and sweeter than honey,
than honey fresh from the comb.
In them your faithful people find instruction;
there is great reward in keeping them.

But who can detect one's own failings?
Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about!
Keep your faithful one from presumption as well,
So that my faults never control me.
Then I will be blameless
and innocent of grave error.
May the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, YHWH,
my rock and my redeemer!

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words, and said, "I am YHWH who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"Do not worship any gods except me!

"Do not make for yourselves any carved image or likeness of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth, and do not bow down to them or serve them! For I, YHWH, am a jealous God, and for the parents' fault I punish the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of those who turn from me; but I show kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love me and heed my commandments.

“Do not utter the name of YHWH to misuse it, for YHWH will not acquit anyone who utters God’s name to misuse it!

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy! For six days you will labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath for YHWH. Do no work on that day, neither you nor your daughter nor your son, nor your workers—women or men—nor your animals, nor the foreigner who lives among you. For in the six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that they hold, but rested on the seventh day; this is why YHWH has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred.

“Honour your mother and your father, so that you may have a long life in the land that YHWH has given to you!

“No murdering!”

“No adultery!

“No stealing!

“No giving false testimony against your neighbour!

“No desiring your neighbour’s house! No desiring your neighbour’s spouse or worker—female or male—or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour!”

Anthem

All Thy Gifts of Love

David Brunner (b. 1953)

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
for peace in a world where many walk in fear,
for friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you thanks, O God.

For health in a world where many walk in sickness,
for joy in a world where many walk in grief,
for friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you thanks, O God.

For love in a world where many walk in anger,
light in a world where many walk in darkness,
friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you thanks, O God.

For these and all the many things unspoken,
for gifts unknown or, as of yet, unseen.
For these and all thy gifts of love,
we give thee thanks, O God.
(Diocese of Huron, and additional text by D. B.)

Prayers of the People

Solo Leaning In
Baritone – Doug MacNaughton

Christopher Grundy

We pray for the lonely ones knowing that some of us are lonely
and we pray for the heartbroken ones knowing that some of us are heartbroken.
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world.

We pray for the wounded ones knowing that some of us are wounded
and we pray for the regretful ones knowing that some of us are regretful.
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of healing in the world.

We pray for the starving ones knowing that some of us are starving
and we pray for the imprisoned ones knowing that some of us are imprisoned.
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of justice in the world.

We pray for the dying ones knowing that some of us are dying
and we pray for the newly born ones knowing that some of us are arriving.
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion**Invitation to the Table****Prayer of Thanksgiving****The Communion**

Communion Anthem As We Gather at Your Table

E. Daley

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
 send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
 may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.
 (Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944)

Prayer After Communion

Introduction of Offering

Offertory

*** 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.***

***Sending Out²**

Today, we make our Sacrament of Thanksgiving.
 We begin with the simple things of our days:
 Fresh air to breathe,
 Cool water to drink,
 The taste of food,
 The protection of houses and clothes,
 The comforts of home.
 For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

Before we fill ourselves from groaning tables,
We commit, together, to feed those whose hunger is all too real.

8.

Before we gather with friends and family in warm, safe homes,
We commit, together, to make shelter for those who have no place to sleep.

Before we rush to the stores to buy more than we really need,
We offer our hearts and lives to all whose lives are empty.

Before we put away the dishes of our feast
We will pause, once again, to offer another quiet prayer of Thanksgiving.

*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

¹ Adapted from prayers by Walter Rauschenbusch and the United Church of Canada

² Adapted from prayers by Thom Shuman Howard Thurman, and used with permission

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