



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church
November 19, 2023
10:30am**

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

Photo credit: Cam Watts

Welcome and Acknowledgements

*Opening Hymn Welcome to Another Day

VU #408

***Welcome to another day! Night is blinded.
"Welcome," let creation say; darkness ended.
Comes the sunshine after dew, time for labour;
time to love my God anew and my neighbour.***

***Welcome to the day of prayer with God's people;
welcome is the joy we share at this table.
Bread and wine from heaven fall; come, receive it
that the Christ may reign in all who believe it.***

***Welcome is the peace that's given, sure for ever;
welcome is the hope of heaven when life's over.
As we work and as we pray, trust God's story:
come then, as the dawning day heralds glory!***
(Michael Saward, 1980)

*Gathering Prayer¹

With these words we give thanks,
"Welcome to another day.
Time to love my God anew.
And my neighbour."

A day we hope beyond hope, is different.

Hear us as we pray,
battered, broken, betrayed.
we stand before You
between the lines.

Breathe on us, Breath of God
because we have Betrayed
our siblings by our silence.

Breathe on me, Breath of God

What is Breath
when it is stolen?

Humanity is beyond recognition,
buried in blood.

***Bring us transformation
Beauty for Brokenness***

Expose for us our blindness
breathe on all, the breath to see.

Be brave and bold
beyond what others can see

***When I can't breathe
God, breathe on me.
When I cannot see my betrayal
bring me to the light.***

***Introit**

Blessèd Be the Name of the Lord

E. Daley

Blessèd be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised!
(Psalm 113: 2, 3)

Scripture Reading John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Reader: Judy Langstaff

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii [a year's wages] and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

4.

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

Confession of Faith²

***We believe in the debonaire God
who clothes the wild flowers
dressing them so superbly
that they outdo Solomon in all his glory;
who is the true Friend
of all creatures great and small
who feeds magpies and robins,
and even doleful ravens.***

***We believe in the God of Christ Jesus
the Source of abundance,
full of grace and truth.***

***We believe in the extravagant God
who turns the other cheek,
goes the second mile,
turns water into the best wine,
brings healing with his every touch,
and who welcomes a woman's love
as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.***

***We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ,
who sweated blood in an Olive Grove,
and kept the faith to the very end.
We believe in the redeeming one
who spared no cost,
forgave even his brutal crucifiers,
had time for a dying thief at his side,
and who on the third day
did a thing so prodigious
that even his friends were dismayed with joy.***

***We believe in the God of Jesus Christ,
the Source of abundance
wherever we turn
and no matter what we do.
Amen.***

Anthem

O God, You Speak Your Beauty Every Hour

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

O God, you speak your beauty ev'ry hour,
from soaring peaks to valleys fed by springs,
In ev'ry living soul and fragrant flow'r
your handiwork is seen – creation sings!
As people in your image, we aspire
and live to mirror your creative fire.

O risen Christ, we seek to understand
the vastness of your wide-embracing love.
With mercy from your gentle, guiding hand
we move from depths below to heights above.
May we, with hearts uplifted by your grace,
extend your love to ev'ry land and race.

O Spirit, giving breath to all the earth,
we grow in faith and strength from your clear flame.
O Wind of Heav'n, recalled at our rebirth,
the world awaits the unity we claim.
With zeal we strive, assisted by your might,
to fill the earth with everlasting Light.
(Howard Helvey)

Reflection

Dis-ease

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

***Hymn**

Nothing Can Trouble

VU #290

***Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us. (4 times)
(Spanish St. Teresa of Jesus, trans. Taizé Community)***

Living Our Mission and More Than one Story

Peace of the Christ Candle

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem A Hymn for St. Cecilia Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

(St. Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and church music, and November 22 is St. Cecilia's Day)

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing, in words of youth and phrases of the Spring,
walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray, and sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
'til angels, voyaging in upper air pause on a wing and gather the clear sound into celestial joy,
wound and unwound, a silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth, in words of music, and each word a truth;
marriage of heart and longings that aspire, a bond of roses and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away, terror must gather to a martyr's death;
but never tremble, the last indrawn breath remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries Cecilia's music dances in the skies.
Lend us a fragment of the immortal air, that with your choiring angels we may share
a word to light us thro' time-fettered night, water of life or rose of paradise,
so from the earth another song shall rise to meet your own in heaven's long delight.
(Ursula Vaughan Williams, 1911-2007)

*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 Out³**

Know yourself and you shall be able to know others.

Let the fragrance surrounding that person Jesus,
enhance your environment.

Attempt to love others, and should Christ call you,
then even dare
to go tenderly but firmly where angels fear to tread.

Try loving yourself more,
even as God has loved you.

By the grace of God,
you are much more than you think you are.

Amen!

***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 Leah Wenger, "Breathe on Me," Prayers of Lament, Mennonite Church USA., adapted, with permission.

² Bruce Prewer, with permission.

³ Bruce Prewer and Thom Shuman, adapted, with permission.

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November 19, 9:30am	Red Door Annual Holiday Gift Drive Donation Drop-offs begin
December 3, 4:45pm	Carols Around the Crèche Fairlawn and community outdoor carol sing marking the first Sunday of Advent.
December 10, 10:30am	Special Music Sunday featuring Daniel Pinkham's <i>Christmas Cantata</i> , with brass and organ.
December 17, 7:00pm	Lessons and Carols

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