



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.

Hope Peace Joy Love



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:30am
First Sunday of Advent**

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

2.

Welcome

***Processional Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU #1 (verses 1, 5, 6 and 7)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high.
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

***Gathering Prayer¹**

Holy One
In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair
we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place

we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
 and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
 Look upon your church and its members
 in this season of hope
 which runs so quickly to fatigue
 and this season of yearning
 which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
 Give us the grace and the impatience
 to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
 to the edge of our finger tips.
 We do not want our several worlds to end.
 Come in your power
 and come in your weakness
 in any case
 and make all things new.
 Amen.

***Introit**

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

E. Daley

The King shall come when morning dawns,
 And light and beauty brings,
 "Hail, Christ the Lord!" Thy people pray,
 Come quickly, King of kings!
 (John Brownlie, 1857-1925)

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Hope

Reader: Jannie Mills

When we look around, we see shadows of hunger.
 So many neighbours, nearby and around the
 world,
 will go to bed hungry tonight.

When we look around, we see shadows of injustice.
 The rich getting richer and the poor getting
 poorer –
 and someone tonight will sleep
 under a Toronto city bridge.

In the face of hunger, injustice and despair
we light a candle of hope.

4. *We light the first Advent Candle as we sing together*

***O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:
O living love, within our hearts be born,
O living love, within our hearts be borne.***

May the light from this candle
overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all
***God's hope is coming
on earth as it is already in heaven.***

Friends, be not afraid.
God's hope is at hand.

Sharing Peace

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 (The Inclusive Bible)

Reader: Paul Mills

Anthem

The Yearning

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief
and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide
and in the shades of death abide,
A yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One,
the First-born of creation.
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,
and by His death for sin atoned,
To bring to us salvation.
*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
within our hearts the yearning.*

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait
the day of His appearing.
There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased
and we shall see the One who placed
within our hearts the yearning.

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
within our hearts the yearning.
(Susan Bentall Boersma)*

Reflection Letting the Mundane Become the Edge of Glory

Rev. Jean Ward

***Hymn** People, Look East

VU #9

***People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.***

***Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.***

***Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledgling time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.***

***Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.***

***Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.***

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett (b. 1952)

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs,
nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by his crown or by his gown,
but his coming known shall be,
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.
(Anon.)

*Presentation of the Offering

E. Daley

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

***Come, Light of lights, come shine upon us,
Come, touch our hearts, we long for you.
Come, touch our lives, come and renew us,
Come to us, Emmanuel.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honour and praise you;
May we work with you to establish your new order
of justice peace and love;
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us, through forgiving others,
to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil,
For all tenderness, strength and love are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.***

***Recessional Hymn** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

VU #25 (verse 1, 3 and 4)

***Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.***

***Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!***

***Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down.***

***Advent Blessing**

God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones,
the angels in heaven,
the child in the womb,
***Give us your benediction,
your good word for our souls,
that we might rest and rise
in the kindness of your company.
Amen.***

***Choral Commissioning**

E. Daley

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

***Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here Lord, abide.
Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.***
(Georg Weissel 1642, trans. Catherine Winkworth 1855, alt.)

8.

Postlude

¹Walter Brueggemann from "Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth"

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The Senior Choir of Fairlawn Avenue
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
presents



Christmas Cantata

by Daniel Pinkham
with
Brass Quartet
and
Sharon Beckstead, organ

Special Music
Sunday, December 10
at 10:30am

Minister – Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
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