



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, January 28, 2024 10:30am
Social Justice Sunday

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Embrace Action Ministry
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

2.

Welcome and Acknowledgement

***Opening Hymn** We Turn to You

VU #685 (verses 1-4)

***We turn to you, O God of every nation,
giver of good and origin of life;
your love is at the heart of all creation,
your hurt is people's pain in war and death.***

***We turn to you, that we may be forgiven
for crucifying Christ on earth again.
We know that we have never wholly striven
to share with all the promise of your reign.***

***Free every heart from pride and self-reliance,
our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;
break down among us barriers of defiance,
speak to the soul of all the human race.***

***On all who fight on earth for right relations
we pray the light of love from hour to hour.
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,
the gift of carefulness to those in power.***

(Fred Kaan, 1929-2009)

Gathering Prayer

Well, here we are.
Strong in faith, weak in resolve,
Wise and confused,
Thankfully blessed, hungry for more
Among friends and family, desperately lonely.
Warm and secure, cold and wandering.

***Not, O Holy One, alone.
Not, O Holy One, abandoned.
Not O Holy One, beyond grace.***

Here we are, humanity in all it's experience,
Grateful for each other,
and for a moment to listen for the Spirit's promptings.
We open our hearts to you.

Introit

What Does the Lord Require of Us?

What does the Lord require of us?

That we seek justice.

What does the Lord require of us?

That we love kindness.

What does the Lord require of us?

That we walk humbly with our God.

(Micah 6:8)

Scripture

Micah 6

Hear what the Holy One says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Holy One,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Holy One has a controversy with their people,
and will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Holy One.’

‘With what shall I come before the Holy One,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Holy One be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

The Holy One has told you, O mortal, what is good;

4.

and what does the Holy One require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your Maker?

The voice of the Holy One cries to the city
(it is sound wisdom to fear your name):

Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city!

Can I forget the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked,
and the scant measure that is accursed?

Can I tolerate wicked scales

and a bag of dishonest weights?

Your wealthy are full of violence;

your inhabitants speak lies,

with tongues of deceit in their mouths.

Therefore I have begun to strike you down,
making you desolate because of your sins.

You shall eat, but not be satisfied,

and there shall be a gnawing hunger within you;

you shall put away, but not save,

and what you save, I will hand over to the sword.

You shall sow, but not reap;

you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil;

you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.

For you have kept the statutes of Omri
and all the works of the house of Ahab,
and you have followed their counsels.

Therefore I will make you a desolation, and your inhabitants an object of hissing;
so you shall bear the scorn of my people.

***Hymn**

When Pain of the World

VU #598

***When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes everywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.***

***We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,
confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow through us.***

***The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill
to nourish all its people, God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's spirit flow through us.***

***We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow through us.***
(Jim Strathdee, b. 1941)

Reflection "Kindness is not Justice, Justice is not Kindness" Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Social Justice Sunday Celebration of Kindness

Anthem The Work of Christmas Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people,
To make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.
(Howard Thurman, 1899-1981)

Prayers of the People Leaning In Christopher Grundy
Baritone – Doug MacNaughton

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.

6. 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.

Living Our Mission TUCC Presentation, Rev. Roberta Howey

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem What Does the Lord Require?

Eric Nelson (b. 1959)

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?
To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?
With God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?
Then do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so high?
Let Christ endue our will grace.

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?
To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.
(Albert F. Bayly [1901-1984] alt., para. Micah 6:6-8)

***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.***

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***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

All the Diamonds
Giles Tomkins – Bass-baritone
Doug MacNaughton – Guitar

Bruce Cockburn (b. 1945)

All the diamonds in this world
That mean anything to me
Are conjured up by wind and sunlight
Sparkling on the sea

I ran aground in a harbour town
Lost the taste for being free
Thank God He sent some gull-chased ship
To carry me to sea

Two thousand years and half a world away
Dying trees still grow greener when you pray

Silver scales flash bright and fade
In reeds along the shore
Like a pearl in sea of liquid jade
His ship comes shining
Like a crystal swan in a sky of suns
His ship comes shining.
(Bruce Cockburn)

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Acting Kindly in an Unkind World

3-part online Embrace Action Series

Evening Series 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Mon., Feb. 5; Tues., Feb. 13 and 20

Afternoon Series 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Wed., Feb. 7, 14 and 21

For more information and
to register for this series, see
John or Sandy during Coffee Hour



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