



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United
Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:30am
Lent 2

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

2. *Indicates when the congregation is to stand, as able.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome and Acknowledgement

* Hymn

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

VU page 822

***All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.***

***Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.***

***Enter the sacred gates with praise;
with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always
as people whom the Spirit calls.***

***Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.***

*Gathering Prayer

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God.
All the families of the nations shall bow down and worship.

***God has not ignored or despised the afflicted.
God's face is not hidden; every human cry is heard.***

All you who revere God, give praise!
Let the children of God give honour and glory!

***I will tell Your name to my siblings,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise You!***

God our most holy Friend,

***we thank you for your faithfulness,
we praise you for your saving deeds,
we adore your Presence
within the joys and sorrows of Jesus.***

Amen!

***Introit**

Who Can Save Us, Lord, But Thou?

E. Daley

Who can save us, Lord, but thou?
Let thy mercy show thy power.
Lo, we plead thy promise now,
now in this accepted hour.
(Latin, ca. 11th century,
trans. John Ellerton, 1826-1893)

Scripture

Psalm 22 (The Message)

God, God . . . my God!
Why did you dump me
miles from nowhere?

Doubled up with pain, I call to God
all the day long. No answer. Nothing.
I keep at it all night, tossing and turning.

And you! Are you indifferent, above it all,
leaning back on the cushions of Israel's praise?

We know you were there for our parents:
they cried for your help and you gave it;
they trusted and lived a good life.

And here I am, a nothing—an earthworm,
something to step on, to squash.
Everyone pokes fun at me;
they make faces at me, they shake their heads:
"Let's see how God handles this one;
since God likes him so much, let *him* help him!"

4.

And to think you were midwife at my birth,
 setting me at my mother's breasts!
When I left the womb you cradled me;
 since the moment of birth you've been my God.

Then you moved far away
 and trouble moved in next door.
I need a neighbour.

Herds of bulls come at me,
 the raging bulls stampede,
Horns lowered, nostrils flaring,
 like a herd of buffalo on the move.
I'm a bucket kicked over and spilled,
 every joint in my body has been pulled apart.
My heart is a blob
 of melted wax in my gut.
I'm dry as a bone,
 my tongue black and swollen.

They have laid me out for burial
 in the dirt.
Now packs of wild dogs come at me;
 thugs gang up on me.
They pin me down hand and foot,
 and lock me in a cage—a bag
Of bones in a cage, stared at
 by every passerby.

They take my wallet and the shirt off my back,
 and then throw dice for my clothes.
You, God—don't put off my rescue!
 Hurry and help me!

Don't let them cut my throat;
 don't let those mongrels devour me.
If you don't show up soon,
 I'm done for—gored by the bulls,
 meat for the lions.

Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship,
 and punctuate it with Hallelujahs:

Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers;
give glory, you sons of Jacob;
adore him, you daughters of Israel.
God has never let you down,
never looked the other way
when you were being kicked around.
God has never wandered off to do their own thing;
they have been right there, listening.

Here in this great gathering for worship
I have discovered this praise-life.
And I'll do what I promised right here
in front of the God-worshippers.

Down-and-outers sit at God's table
and eat their fill.
Everyone on the hunt for God
is here, praising.
"Live it up, from head to toe.
Don't ever quit!"
From the four corners of the earth
people are coming to their senses,
are running back to God.
Long-lost families
are falling on their faces before the Holy One.
God has taken charge;
from now on with the last word.
All the power-mongers are before God
—worshiping!
All the poor and powerless, too
—worshiping!
Along with those who never got it together
—worshiping!

Our children and their children
will get in on this
As the word is passed along
from parent to child.
Babies not yet conceived
will hear the good news—
that God does what he says.

6.

Anthem

Come, Renew Us
Amy Dodington – Soprano

E. Daley

Come, renew us,
Enter our darkness with your light.
Fill our emptiness with your presence.
Come, refresh, restore, renew us.
In our sadness, come as joy,
In our troubles, come as peace,
In our fearfulness, come as hope.
In our darkness, come as light,
In our frailty, come as strength,
In our loneliness, come as love.
Come, refresh, restore, renew us.
(David Adam, 1936-2020)

Reflection

When the Levees Broke – Part II

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Prayer of Confession for Black History Month²

Save us, O God, from ourselves,
***from racism often cloaked in pious words,
from the machinations of white supremacy
hidden in calls for civility,
from micro aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance,
from apologies when they don't give way to action,
from forgiveness without facing the truth,
from reconciliation without reparation.***

Deliver us, O God,
from expecting siblings of colour
to continue to bear this emotional work,
which is not theirs to do.

Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:

***Grant us wisdom,
give us courage for the facing of these days,
by the power of the Spirit,
all for the sake of the kin-dom that we share in Christ Jesus.***

Amen.

***Hymn**

God, When I Stand

VU #618 (verses 1, 2 and 3)

***God, when I stand, no path before me clear,
when every prayer seems prisoner of my pain;
come with a gentleness which calms my fear,
Lord of my helplessness, my victory gain.***

***When all my prayers no answer seem to bring,
and there is silence in my deepest soul;
when in the wilderness I find no spring,
Lord of the desert places, keep me whole.***

***When the dark lord of loneliness prevails,
and all defeated, joy and friendship die;
come, be my joy, such love that never fails,
pierce the self-pity of my shadowed sky.***

Introduction of Offering***Offertory Anthem** Go Forth into the World in Peace John Rutter (b. 1945)

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be upon you, and remain with you forever. Amen.
(from the Book of Common Prayer, 1928)

***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.***

8.

***Sending Out**

Holy Friend, our Creator and Saviour,
we have talked much about faith
yet have been slow to take its risks,

***we have lauded forgiveness yet have been miserly in giving it,
we have praised truth yet have fudged our own integrity,
we have extolled love
yet have placed conditions on our loving,
we have urged hope for others
yet have ourselves lived like cynics,
we have honoured Christ's Cross yet have avoided our own.***

Even after we depart, we seek the secret caverns of our souls

***Where we may be exposed, judged, counseled,
cleansed and reformed.
In the name of Christ, our Redeemer.***

***Choral Commissioning**

E. Daley

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

***O Lord, throughout this time of Lent,
May we close by you stay,
We walk with you, as we await
The joy of Easter Day.
(E. D.)***

Postlude

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¹ Bruce Prewer, with permission

² "A Prayer for Racial Justice" (pdf), Worship Resources for the Day of Racial Healing, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, pages 5-6, with permission.



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