



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United
Sunday, February 11, 2024
10:30am
Transfiguration

Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

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

Welcome and Acknowledgement

Gathering Words

*Processional Hymn How Good, Lord, to Be Here

VU #103

***How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.***

***How good, Lord, to be here,
your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.***

***Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified,
and our redemption see!***

***Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come:
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home!***

***How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but, since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.***

*Call To Worship

The world belongs to God.

The earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful

to live together in harmony.

Love and faith come together,

justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,

these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*Lighting of the Christ Candle

Open your hearts to the light of God's presence.

We will walk in the light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Thanks be to God.

*Opening Prayer

*Introit

Draw Near to God

E. Daley

Draw near to God,
and God will draw near to you.
(James 4:8a)

Prayer of Confession Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

Before God, with the people of God we confess to our brokenness, to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

Sharing Peace

Anthem

Jesus on the Mountain Peak

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)/E. Daley

Jesus on the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising:
Hallelujah!

Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Hallelujah!

4. Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming, in its thunder,
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations cry aloud in wonder:
Hallelujah!

This is God's belovèd son!
Law and prophets sing before him,
first and last and only One.
All creation shall adore him!
Hallelujah!
(Brian Wren, b. 1936)

Sermon

Mountain-top Experiences

Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart

The scripture readings included in this morning's sermon are:

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

***Hymn**

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

VU #104

***We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.***

***Light breaks forth upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.***

***Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.***

Introduction of Offering

***Offertory Anthem** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
Andrea Ludwig – Mezzo Soprano

Brad Nix (b. 1975)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
joyless is the day's return
till Thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.
(Charles Wesley, 1707-1788)

*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.***

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

***Recessional Hymn** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU #651

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.*

8.

***Blessing**

This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
We will not offer to God
gifts that cost us nothing.
Go in peace to love and serve;
we will seek peace and pursue it.
In the name of the Trinity of Love,
God in community, holy and one.

***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

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