



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United
Sunday, February 18, 2024 10:30am
Lent I

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

Will Your Anchor Hold

VU #675 (verses 1, 2 and 3)

***Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?***

***We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!***

***It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.***

***We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!***

***It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.***

***We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!***

*Gathering Confession¹

We come together from our separate lives,
each of us bringing our concerns,

our preoccupations,
our hopes,
and our dreams.

***We are not yet fully present.
The traffic,
the last-minute cooking,
the final details still cling to us.***

Our bodies hold the rush of the past few hours.
It is now time to let go of these pressures and really arrive...
When you are ready, repeat silently to yourself: "Here I am."

***In body, mind, and spirit,

we are settling into where we are
and simply being "here".
In the Presence of the Creator.***

***Introit**

Oh, May These Our Lenten Days

E. Daley

Oh, may these our Lenten days,
blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise
we may keep thy feast at last.
(Latin, ca. 11th century,
trans. John Ellerton, 1826-1893)

Scripture

Genesis 7:1-12 (NRSV)

Then the Holy One said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation.

"Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground."

And Noah did all that the Holy One had commanded him.

4.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights.

Anthem

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.
(George Matheson, 1842-1906)

Reflection

When the Levees Broke

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Prayer of Confession for Black History Month²

***Gracious One, you created all of us in your image.
Open our hearts and minds to this reality.
Let us recognize that we are all Your beloved children.***

***You are community: Creator, Child, and Spirit.
Help us to foster community in our neighbourhoods.
Teach us to be one as you are one.
Teach us to love as you love.***

***Open our eyes to the sin of racism.
Show us where it exists in our society.
Please grant us the courage to denounce it,
but always with a loving heart like yours.***

***Enlighten our minds to be aware
of our own weaknesses
and gently teach us
not to act out of our own biases.
Teach us to celebrate our differences
and to see diversity as strength.***

***Please grant us the grace to work together
for an end to racism in our world.
We long to live together in your household
as siblings.
Amen.***

***Hymn**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

VU #670

***Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When the darkness appears, and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

Introduction of Offering

***Offertory Anthem** So the Day Dawn

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

So the day dawn for me, so the day break,
 Christ watching over me, Christ as I wake.
 Be the day shine to me, be the day bright.
 Christ my companion be, Christ be my light.

Be the day dark to me, be the day drear,
 Christ shall my comfort be, Christ be my cheer.
 Be the day swift to me, be the day long,
 Christ my contentment be, Christ be my song.

So the day dawn for me, so the day break,
 Christ watching over me, Christ as I wake,
 So the day close for me, so the night fall,
 Christ watching over me, Christ be my all.
 (Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926)

***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 Out**

When you go from here
 know that our hearts are always in the right place,
 a holy place,

for in Christ we always are connected to one another.

our hearts beat in one universal rhythm.

May we each find the sacred space to hear it.

Amen. May it be so with us.

***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

This morning's offertory anthem text is reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945. *So the Day Dawn*, © 1993 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

¹ Nan Fink Gene, Adapted, with permission

² "Prayer for an End to Racism," Young Catholics. Adapted, with permission.

Minister – Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
cameron@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Associate Minister – Rev. Jean Ward
jean@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Director of Music – Eleanor Daley
eleanor@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Administrator – Joanne Christie
joanne@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Bookkeeper – Heather de la Rua
heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Video Editor – Kathleen Newton
Insomniac Productions

Website:
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/>

Events Calendar:
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/events/>

Online Worship
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/spirituality/sermons/>

Greetings! Weekly Newsletter
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/news-greetings/>

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/FairlawnAveChurch>

Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/fairlawnavenueunited/>



**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church**
28 Fairlawn Avenue
Toronto, ON M5M 1S7
T: 416-481-6848



Scan this QR code with
your phone for direct
access to donate to
Support Fairlawn.





Memorial Easter Flowers

At Easter, the sanctuary is decorated with lilies and hydrangeas in memory of loved ones or as an expression of gratitude. If you wish to purchase a lily \$15.00 or hydrangea \$25.00, please place your money or cheque in an envelope on the offering plate or send an e-transfer to etransfer@fairlawnavenueunited.ca noting: Lily or Hydrangea, your name, and the name(s) of the person(s) to be memorialized in our Good Friday and Easter Sunday bulletin. The order deadline is Sunday, March 17.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 10:30AM PALM PASSION SUNDAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 7:30PM MAUNDY THURSDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 10:30AM GOOD FRIDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 10:30AM EASTER SUNDAY