



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:30am
When the Levees Broke, Conclusion**

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.
Congregational responses are indicated in ***bold italics***.

Bidding Prayer¹

***O Great life-giving Spirit
whose commanding voice I hear in the winds
and whose warm breath give life to all the world***

***Hear me
one five-billionth of the humans on planet earth.***

***I am a natural part of the universe
as natural and necessary as the rocks,
the trees, the birds and the mice
no more important nor any less.***

***Let me walk in beauty
let my spirit see the dynamic spirit of life in all that exists
with no prejudice or malice toward any creation.***

***May I begin to remember who I am in the natural order of things
as I stand in my own shallow pool of time
May I come to know what time it is
in my life and in all life.***

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome and Acknowledgements

*Opening Hymn

This is God's Wondrous World

VU #296

***This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.***

***This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.***

***This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!***

Biding Prayer

***Great Spirit of Love,
Connect my heart to my head
Make me wise
that I may understand the things you have taught all people
in every heart close or far from my own.***

***Make me courageous when the cold winds of life fall upon me.
Give me strength and endurance for everything that is harsh
everything that hurts
everything that makes me squint and wince.***

***I seek strength not to be greater or lesser than my siblings
but to remove the tough and shiny obstacles to equality
that have made their home inside myself.
Prepare me to move through life ready to take what comes.
Comfort me and caress me when I am tired and cold.
Unfold me
the way your gentle breezes unfold the leaves on trees.***

Introit

Within These Walls

E. Daley

Within these walls let holy peace and love and friendship dwell;
here give the troubled conscience ease, the wounded spirit heal.
(John Newton, 1725-1807)

Scripture

Luke 6:43-49

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil, for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house

4.

but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it quickly collapsed, and great was the ruin of that house.”

Anthem

Teach Me Thy Song, O Lord

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Teach me Thy song, O Lord,
that song which graced creation's dawn,
and bid the firmament unfurl;
that bathed the newborn world
in uncreated light –
that song so bright.
Teach me Thy song, O Lord.

Teach me Thy song, O Lord,
that song which burst Thy Servant's heart
to beat of blows upon the cross;
his pain and bitterest loss
and death that should be mine –
his song was Thine.
Teach me Thy song, O Lord.

Teach me Thy song, O Lord,
that song which swirls to wreath Thy throne,
and bears the prayers of all Thine own;
to Thee, and Thee alone
by saints and angels raised,
Thy name to praise.
Teach me Thy song, O Lord.
(Joel Nagy)

Reflection

Love Among the Ruins

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

***Hymn**

All My Hope on God is Founded VU #655

***All my hope on God is founded;
who doth still my trust renew:
I through change and chance am guided,
only good and only true.
God unknown, God alone
calls my heart eternally home.***

***Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown, betray our trust;
what with care and toil is built up,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.***

***Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow.
God's desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand hand in hand;
joy doth wait on God's command.***

***God's great wisdom aye endureth,
deepest wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attending,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from God's store
new-born worlds rise and adore.***

Confession of Faith "In Respect for Stephen Hawking"²

Beyond impossibility
where concepts such as time and space
evaporate, are meaningless,
there flows an endless stream of grace.

Deep in the darkness laughter rocks
as human minds are changed and swayed,
as concrete truths are shaken down
and doctrines challenged or betrayed.

The greatest minds that have evolved
have opened wonder, filled with awe,
have pointed to infinity
yet left a darkness to explore.

Unmeasured depths of gracious love,
of Godly mischief reach and range,
while new beginnings light our world,
unlooked for, awesome, wondrous, strange.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem A Celtic Prayer

Barry Peters (b. 1957)

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.
 May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.
 May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your hearts to love.
 May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
 and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.
 Amen.
 (Traditional Celtic)

*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.*

***Binding Prayer**

*Oh Spirit of Creation
 make me always ready to come to you with clean hands
 and straight eyes
 so when life fades as the fading sunset
 my spirit may come to you without shame.*

*Let me remember every day that the moment will come
 when my sun will go down
 my river will join the vast ocean
 and this rock which has bounced along so many bumps
 will finally come to rest.*

*Give me a great sky for settling into
 a crystal-clean ocean for flowing into*

***and an unpolluted earth for my final resting place.
And when it is time for me to join the earth again
may I come steadily and with glory.***

***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

The text for this morning's anthem is reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945. *Teach Me Thy Song, O Lord*, © 1991 Beckenhorst Press Inc. All rights reserved.

¹ The Bidding, Biding and Binding Prayer, Fran Peavey, adapted, with permission

² Andrew Pratt. 14/3/2018



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 Monday, March 18.



Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:00am in the Assembly Hall. Enjoy Opening Prayer, coloured hard boiled Easter eggs, hot cross buns with fixings, coffee, tea, juice and enjoyable company. \$5 per person at the door. Please register via *Greetings!* or advise Joanne by email at joanne@fairlawnavenueunited.ca by Monday, March 18.

HOLY WEEK at Fairlawn

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 9:00am Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31 10:30am Easter Sunday

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.

