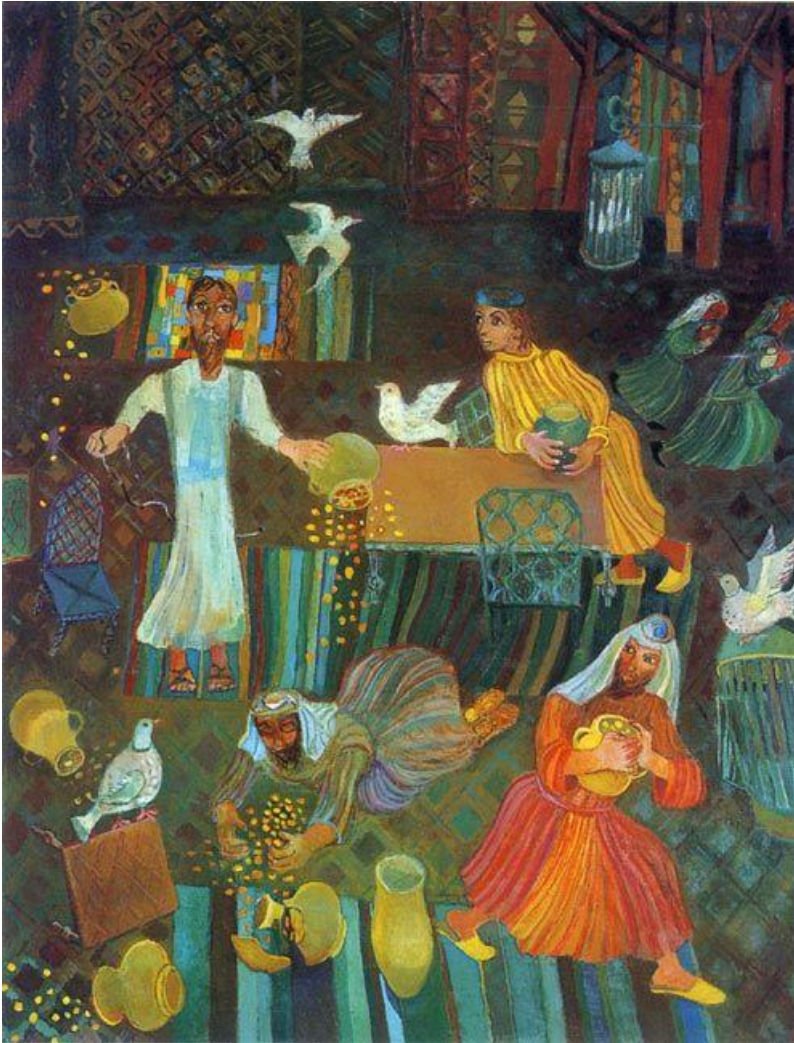




FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United
Sunday, March 3, 2024
10:30am
Lent 3

Rev. Jean Ward
Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Kate Tremills – Guest Pianist
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

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

***Processional Hymn** As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU #111

*As the sun with longer journey
melts the winter's snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance
warms the seeds beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ's uprising
gently bring our hearts to life.*

*Through the days of waiting, watching
in the desert of our sin,
searching on the far horizon
for a sign of cloud or wind,
we await the healing waters
of our Saviour's victory.*

*Praise be given to the Maker
of the seasons' yearly round:
to the Speaker through the Spoken
in their living Breath of love
as the ever turning seasons
roll to their eternal rest.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

There was once someone who said such amazing things
and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him.
But they didn't know who he was.
So one day they simply had to ask him,
and, when they asked him, he said,
I am the Light.

Welcome and Acknowledgement

***Gathering Prayer**

***God, Lent is the season for life's contradictions:
Faith is strong and faith is weak.
Hearts are open and hearts are closed.
Joy is present and joy is absent.***

***The call is heard and the call ignored.
 The will is there and the will is gone.
 The way is hard and the way is easy.
 We turn towards you and we turn away.
 We turn away and we turn towards you
 that you might forgive us, reclaim us, renew us,
 for you are at home with life's contradictions
 bending and straightening, softening and hardening,
 infilling and deepening.
 In life's contradictions renew us, we pray.***
 (Nigel Weaver)

***Introit**

Giver of the Perfect Gift

E. Daley

Giver of the perfect gift,
 only hope of human race,
 hear the prayer our hearts uplift,
 gathered at thy throne of grace.
 (Latin, ca. 11th century,
 trans. John Ellerton, 1826-1893)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness,
 setting Jesus on a journey toward Jerusalem.
 The Spirit, God's presence,
 brought him love, peace, and joy.
 He didn't hoard, trade, or barter these.
 He shared them freely with one and with all.
 Let us share that presence – that love, peace, and joy.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

John 2:13-22

Common English Bible

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged

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currency. He said to the dove sellers, "Get these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me.*

Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up."

The Jewish leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Anthem

You Do Not Walk Alone

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

May you see God's light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,
may you always remember when the shadows fall you do not walk alone.
(Traditional Irish blessing)

Reflection

In the Kingdom's Causes

Rev. Jean Ward

***Hymn**

Come to My Heart

VU #661

***Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.***

***Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.***

***Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.***

Prayers of the People

***Holy One,
 God of motion, God of movement
 playing in light and wind,
 on our city streets & highrise towers
 on the waters of the Humber & Don rivers
 on the waves of Lake Ontario,
 God of pulse, and beat and rhythm
 dancing within the twirling seasons,
 God of form, and fit and function
 shaping present and drawing future,
 God of speech, of sentence, and syntax
 summoning light and calling forth a people,
 speak now in the shadows
 without us, within us
 speak now to our shadows
 and let there be light.***

(Nigel Weaver, 2011)

***For the sin of silence,
 For the sin of indifference,
 For the secret complicity of the neutral,
 For the closing of borders, For
 For the washing of hands,
 For the crime of indifference,
 For the sin of silence,
 For the closing of borders.
 For all that was done,
 For all that was not done,
 Let there be no forgetfulness before the Throne of Glory;
 Let there be remembrance within the human heart;
 And let there at last be forgiveness
 When your children, O God,
 Are free and at peace.***

(Chaim Stern, 1978)

Intercessions

6.

The Lord's Prayer

*O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honour and praise you;
May we work with you to establish your new order
of justice peace and love;
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us, through forgiving others,
to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil,
For all tenderness, strength and love are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.*

Anthem

By Your Mercy

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

By Your mercy find in me Your image, Lord, that I may be
a true reflection of Your face, by Your mercy.

By Your mercy speak to me clear words of hope and victory;
Your loving voice assuring me of Your mercy.

*Your righteousness exalts me to Your throne,
where I may stand by faith in Christ alone;
not by any merit of my own, but by Your mercy.*

By Your mercy set me free, in child-like faith to trust and see
Your truth in radiant robes displayed, robes of mercy.
(Susan Bentall Boersma)

*Blessing

In our leaving, let's not forget one another
or the passion and vision
that each of us bring
to the work of this congregation.
It is important stuff and holy stuff,
set against the vagaries and trauma
of our world right now.
We are rattled and unsettled.

So as we go to our coffee and conversation
 may we hold on to hope, kindness,
 justice and forgiveness.
 And may we be held in the strong arms
 of the gentle Spirit.
 Amen.

***Recessional Hymn** Jesus Christ is Waiting VU #117 (verses 1, 2, 4 and 5)

***Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
 no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
 Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.***

***Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
 where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
 In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.***

***Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
 where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
 On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.***

***Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
 "Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."
 Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
 Walk one step before me; I will follow you.***

***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 Intermezzo No. 7 in A minor, op. 76 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
 Kate Tremills – Piano

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Gathering Prayer: Nigel Weaver, with permission. Prayers of the People: Nigel Weaver, with permission. Chaim Stern, *Prayer for Overcoming Indifference*, 1978.

Dr Kathryn Tremills is in demand as a performer, vocal coach, teacher and adjudicator. A three-time Canada Council Grant recipient, she has appeared as a soloist throughout North America. As a founding member of *Women on the Verge* along with sopranos Elizabeth McDonald and Emily Martin, she has performed and given masterclasses across North America, in France, the UK and Iceland and commissioned and premiered new works. Kate has appeared on numerous concert series, performing alongside many gifted artists including Colin Ainsworth, Peter McGillivray, Monica Whicher, and her husband, Giles Tomkins (who is a long-time bass section lead at Fairlawn!) She has also served on the musical staff at the Canadian Opera Company as a coach and répétiteur and accompanied many choral groups including the Ontario Youth Choir, the Toronto Children's Chorus and the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. Following interests long set-aside, Kate is now incorporating intentional self-care and authenticity guidance into her coaching and teaching, and has been invited to work with groups of singers on this area. She is an alumna of the University of Michigan, Eastman School of Music, University of Colorado at Boulder, and University of Toronto where she has been a Sessional Lecturer in the Voice Area since 2008. Kate is overjoyed to give back to Eleanor and the Fairlawn Avenue United Church congregation with enormous gratitude for many kindnesses.



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.



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