



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, April 28, 2024 10:30am
Earth Day Sunday**

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, singing and readings in unison are indicated in bold text.

Unison Acknowledgement of the Earth[1]

**We recognise and give thanks
that we humans
are creatures of the Earth
living in the ecosystem
—flowers, trees and insects;
land, waters and mountain range—
that is unique to Canada
yet not so different from anywhere else.
May we honour this land
one another
and honour life itself
by our care for all life.**

Acknowledgement of the Land and Her People

**Unison Welcome[2] As we enter into this sacred place,
put away
the pressures of the world that ask us
to perform,
to take up masks,
to put on brave fronts.**

**Silence the voices that ask you to be perfect.
This is a community of compassion and welcoming.**

**We bring all that we are and all that we yet can be,
to this safe and holy place.**

**Sing out happiness upon the morning.
Celebrate the famous sun and the comely earth.
Think upon love, that it may grow within us,
and compassion, that it may call us to its service.**

***Hymn**

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU #374

**Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!**
(Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020)

***Unison Gathering Prayer[3]**

**Our rolling home spins
in an endless expanse
of wheels within wheels
with wheels of their own.**

**The birthplace of
our existence
a speck afloat
on seas unknown
a drop in an ocean
floating on oceans**

**where I have felt
stars at my feet
and echoes of You
in my own heartbeat.**

4.

***Introit**

The God of Love My Shepherd Is

E. Daley

The God of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
(Henry William Draper, 1821-1877)

Children's Story

Giant *or* Waiting for the Thursday Boat

Robert Munsch, 1989

Scripture

Psalm 23

(Authorised Version)

The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Anthem

Look at the World

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Look at the world, ev'rything all around us:
look at the world, and marvel ev'ry day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
so many miracles along our way.

*Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
all the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing,
all things come of thee.*

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;
 look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
 look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
 valley and flowing river, field and plain. *R*

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
 bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
 Ev'rything grows, ev'rything has a season,
 till it is gathered to the Father's fold. *R*

Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish
 comes from the Lord in token of his love;
 we are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;
 his is the earth, and his the heav'ns above. *R*
 (John Rutter)

Reflection

Bell, Book and Candle

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Confession

Earth, Our Home[4]

We acknowledge Earth in all her fragility and beauty.

***We give thanks for her generous giving of life
 so that all humans and non-humans may live.***

***Let us remember to tread consciously with
 reverence and gratitude...***

We belong to the universe, not the universe to us.

***Blessed be Earth.
 Blessed be Earth.***

[in the silence, become aware of your surroundings and take several
 deep breaths]

Blessed be this wondrous spinning jewel.

Blessed be this wondrous spinning jewel.

6.

*O Earth, beautiful one!
O Earth, awesome and good.
Earth, our Home.*

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer[5]

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days—
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.

*Hymn

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

VU #210

**You, Lord are both lamb and shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you whom we both scorn and crave.**

**Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss.
You, the everlasting instant;
you who are both gift and cost.**

**You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
you who are our pilgrim guide.**

**Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.**
(Sylvia Dunstan, 1955-1993)

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Solo

Carol
Bass-baritone – Giles Tomkins

David Ouchterlony (1914-1987)

The little birds praise you, the wren and the sparrow,
The rabbits and squirrels that run in the snow,
The fish of the sea and the eagle in motion,
All creatures of nature sing praises to you.
O blessed Lord Jesus, we come to you humbly,
All creatures of nature rejoice with you now,
We praise all creation, the earth and the heavens,
We praise our Creator, before you we bow.
All creatures of nature rejoice with you now,
We praise our Creator, before you we bow.

***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**[6]

Take, take off your shoes,
you're standing on holy ground;
take, take off your shoes,
you're standing on holy ground.

Well, the earth is the Holy One's and the fullness thereof
from the waters beneath to the heavens above,
so "Take, take, take off your shoes,"
Says the Holy One
"you're standing on my holy ground,
you're standing on my holy ground."

***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

Draped in various places in the Sanctuary today you will find red dresses. This week, and particularly next Sunday, people across Canada will observe Red Dress Day, a memorial to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People. We place them in silent acknowledgement of the tragedy of the lives of these women lost to systemic racism and violence. If you find one in the place where normally you sit, please leave it there as a symbol of the discomfort or even disorientation we feel at this horrific loss.

More info: <https://www.jaimeblackartist.com/exhibitions/>

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[1] Rex A E Hunt, adapted, with permission [2] E.A. Hewitt, and Kenneth Patton, adapted, with permission [3] "Earth" James Gronvold, with permission [4] Margie Abbott, adapted, with permission [5] Parker Palmer, with Permission [6] James K. Manlev, adapted, with permission. *Giant or Waiting for the Thursday Boat* by Robert Munsch, illustrated by Gilles Tibo. Annick Press Ltd., 1989.



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



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