



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, February 2, 2025 10:30am**

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir
Guest Pianists – Anne Fraser and Doreen Uren Simmons**

2.

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

Congregational responses, singing and readings in unison are indicated in **bold text**.

Welcome and Acknowledgement

Invitation into Worship[1]

The coffee maker in your kitchen is off.
Your doors are locked.

Take your phone,
close your news feeds,
your social media.

Close the Calendar app on your phone
already filled with dates,
and times,
and people,
and places that claim you.

Slip your phone where no one can see.
Including you.

Look around.
These people here today are ready for you.
Together we fill this sacred space,
create its spirit,
generate its warmth,
kindle its light.

The Christ Candles

***Processional Hymn** O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

VU #326

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music to the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.**

Scripture Luke 2:22-40

New Revised Standard Version

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

4.

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,

'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Introit The Light of the World

E. Daley

The light of the world in the darkness has shone,
and grows in our sight as the ages flow on.
(B.M.G.)

Responsive Prayer

As Mary and Jesus were presented at the Temple
we present ourselves in the Presence of the Holy One.

As Mary came bearing the burden of parenthood,
and Joseph with her,
we come bearing the burden of care for this world.

As Simeon proclaimed the arrival of the light of revelation
we proclaim ourselves as bearers of a light for all.

As Mary heard words of fear for her future
we hear and accept our own fears together.

As Anna lived waiting for the redemption of her world
we live to offer words of hope to those around us.

As Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom
***we pray that we would share the favour of the Holy One
 with everyone.***

Anthem

I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing
 Mezzo Soprano – Andrea Ludwig
 Piano – Anne Fraser, Doreen Uren Simmons

arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
 I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
 I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
 And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna preach when the Spirit says preach,
 I'm gonna preach when the Spirit says preach,
 I'm gonna preach when the Spirit says preach,
 And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna pray when the Spirit says pray,
 I'm gonna pray when the Spirit says pray,
 I'm gonna pray when the Spirit says pray,
 And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna shout when the Spirit says shout,
 I'm gonna shout when the Spirit says shout,
 I'm gonna shout when the Spirit says shout,
 And obey the Spirit of the Lord.
 (Traditional)

Reflection

'Anna's Feet'

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Passing the Peace

Introduction of the Offering

6.

Offertory Anthem Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit
Baritone – Dion Mazerolle

arr. William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

*Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray;
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.*

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine. *R*

Jordan river, is chilly an' cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There ain't but one train, upon this track,
It runs to heaven, an' right back. *R*

***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.**

Prayers of the People[2]

In a cynical and despairing world, O Holy One,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your hope.

In a violent and angry world, O Holy One,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your peace.

In a dismissive and disinterested world, O Holy One,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your compassion.

In a lonely and inhospitable world, O Holy One,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your love.

In a grieving and weeping world, O Holy One,
 give us a quietly prophetic voice
 to proclaim your joy.

May we be so captivated by your hope, Our Creator,
 that we cannot help but to whisper,
 to sing, and to enact,
 the message of your homecoming
 which is always coming into our world;

And may our quietly prophetic lives,
 be channels of your restoring grace
 wherever we may go.

Amen.

***Recessional Hymn** Hark the Glad Sound

VU #29

**Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
 the Saviour promised long:
 let every heart prepare a throne,
 and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release
 in Satan's bondage held;
 the gates of brass before him burst,
 the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,
 the bleeding soul to cure,
 and with the treasures of his grace
 to bless the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
 your welcome shall proclaim;
 and heaven's eternal arches ring
 with your beloved name.**

8.

***Sending Out**[3]

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 heav'ns 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

Many thanks to Anne Fraser and Doreen Uren Simmons for sharing their talents with us this morning!

*Thank
you*

[1] David Blanchard, adapted, with permission.

[2] John van der Laar, adapted, with permission.

[3] James K. Manlev, adapted, with permission.

Originally from Prince Edward Island, **Anne Fraser** holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Mount Allison University, and a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Michigan State University. She has enriched our music in worship at Fairlawn with her generous talents for many, many years. Anne's daughter Madeleine and son Robert are both Senior Choir 'alumni', and Madeleine holds the impressive record of being the only Fairlawn chorister who was a member of both the Intermediate and Senior Choirs at the same time over a period of years! Now retired after 34 years as Coordinator of Private Music Lessons and a grade 3-5 music teacher at Crescent School, Anne is "living happily ever after".

Doreen Uren Simmons, a native of Ingersoll, studied in Toronto with the renowned Mona Bates and made her professional debut at the Wigmore Hall in London, England in 1961. She spent 40 years in Toronto, working with many choirs and now internationally famous Canadian singers. This period culminated in her position as studio accompanist for the beloved Lois Marshall, during her 12 years of teaching at the University of Toronto. After Lois' death in 1997, Doreen joined the studios of Peter Barnes at the University of Toronto, and Catherine Robbin and Norma Burrowes at York University. She continues her work with Norma still, though threatening a "well earned retirement", and has been attending Fairlawn for the last 16 years with her partner and long time Fairlawn member, Jim Benson.

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