



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United  
Baptism of Jesus  
Communion  
Sunday, January 12, 2025  
10:30am**

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts  
Eleanor Daley, Dir. 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**.

## Welcome and Acknowledgements

### Ask Me About

As you arrive this morning you have the opportunity to put on a name tag (available, with pens, on a table in the west transept and at the back of the sanctuary). It has the words "Ask Me About" on it, and space for you to write in something you know something about that others may be interested in. We'll take a few minutes at the beginning of the service for you to wander around, and find one person you'd like to ask about. If there are too many people you are curious about, you can ask during Coffee Hour, and we will do this again on some other Sundays.

### Invitation to Worship

Based on Psalm 84

O Maker of all that is,

***We find joy in trusting our Creator.***

You are found in Creation

***We long to discover you,***

***We are deeply homesick when we lose our sense of your presence.***

Heart and flesh cry out

***Today we would find you.***

**\*Processional Hymn** I Have Called You By Your Name

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;**

**I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.**

**I will not abandon you;**

**all my promises are true.**

**You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;**

**read it written in my people, help them grow.**

**Pour the water in my name,**

**speak the word your soul can claim,**

**offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

I know you will need my touch as you go;  
 feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
 Like the woman reaching out,  
 choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
 hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
 I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
 With my wonder in your soul,  
 make my wounded children whole;  
 go and tell my precious people they are mine.

**\*Gathering Prayer**

Based on Psalm 84

O Maker of all that is,  
*We find joy in trusting our Creator.*

Where do we find home?  
*Sparrows and swallows build nests,  
 Families find safe places to live,*

But our souls are restless,  
*Until we find our rest in you.*

We seek the joy of knowing your presence.  
*We draw strength from knowing we, together, are with you.*

As pilgrims through life  
*We know times and places of plenty  
 We are nourished, our thirst for life is quenched,  
 We draw strength from each other.*

In our uncertainties, hear our prayer,  
*Help us to be a shield to each other,  
 To be the face of the Messiah to each other.*

One day with you, one hour with each other,  
*Is better than a thousand years of life in a palace.  
 We would rather be beggars in your presence  
 Than forget you in the comforts of wealth.*

4. We have discovered  
***You are our compass,  
Our provider,  
And care for all who are in need.***

O Maker of all that is,  
***This day, we find joy in trusting our Creator.***

**\*Introit** Eternal Light E. Daley

Eternal light, shine in our hearts,  
eternal hope, lift up our eyes,  
eternal pow'r, be our support,  
eternal wisdom, make us wise.  
(Christopher Idle, b. 1938, used with permission)

**Scripture** Luke 3:15-22 New Revised Standard Version

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**Anthem** A New Year Carol Chris Williams

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,  
For to worship God with this happy New Year.

*Sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
The seven bright gold wires  
And the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,  
Open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go. *R*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,  
Open you the East Door and let the New Year in. *R*  
(Anon.)

**Reflection** The Price of Sandals

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

## **Passing of the Peace**

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

Communion Bread: A Story

Derek Wishart

Welcome to the Table

The Elements of Commensality (bread being served is gluten-free)

**Communion Anthem** The Gate of the Year

John Butler

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness  
and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way!"  
(Minnie Louise Haskins, 1875-1957)

## **Introduction of the Offering and the Offertory**

### **\*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 and the Lord's Prayer<sup>[1]</sup>**

**Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,  
farther from us than the most distant star,  
you are beyond naming.**

6.

**May your powerful presence  
become obvious not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,  
but also in the seemingly base and common processes  
of the earth.**

**Give us what we need, day by day,  
to keep body and soul together,  
because clever as you have made us,  
we still owe our existence to you.**

**We recognize that to be reconciled with you,  
we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,  
putting hate and bitterness behind us.**

**We are torn between our faith in your goodness  
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,  
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.**

**Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.**

**Amen.**

**\*Recessional Hymn** The Lone, Wild Bird

VU #384 (verses 1-4)

**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight  
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.  
And I am yours! I rest in you,  
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.**

**The ends of earth are in your hand,  
the sea's dark deep and far-off land.  
And I am yours! I rest in you,  
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.**

**Each secret thought is known to you,  
the path I walk my whole life through;  
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,  
my deepest joys, my silent tears.**

**In secret depths you knit my frame,  
before my birth you spoke my name;  
within my soul, as close as breath,  
so near to me, in life, in death.**

**\*Sending Out** Fairlawn's Guiding Principles

**To build our future as a faith community we commit to one another to:**

- **care for each other with kindness**
- **encourage dialogue by listening to learn and speaking to foster relationships**
- **value and support the richness that comes with our differences**
- **work together collaboratively to find creative solutions**
- **support each other in times of change and transition**

**\*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**

[1] Progressive Christianity Blog, with permission.

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