



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Social Justice Sunday
Sunday, January 19, 2025 10:30am**

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir**

**Guest Speaker
Kimberly Curry, Executive Director
Seeds of Hope Foundation**

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 To Worship** Listening to Winter[1]

Reader: Sandy Giles Byrne, EA Co-chair

The trees have shed their colorful autumn robes.
Winter is raging through the dark, empty branches
and I am listening.
I am listening to the roar and to the quiet of winter.
I am listening to a beauty that sometimes remains
unseen.

I am listening.

I am listening to the seed hidden in the earth.
I am listening to the dark swallowing up the light.
I am listening to faith rising out of doubt.
I am listening to the need to believe without seeing.

I am listening.

I am listening to the season of contemplation, to
the urgency of our world's need for reflection,
I am listening to all that waits within the earth, to
bulbs and seeds, to deep roots dreaming.
I am listening to the sacred, winter rest.

I am listening.

I am listening to long nights,
comforting darkness, fruitful
darkness, beautiful darkness.
I am listening to the darkness of the winter season.
I am listening to the sparks of hope within the darkness.

I am listening.

I am listening to storms raging out my window, to
storms raging in my heart.
I am listening to all that makes me pull my cloak a little tighter.
I am listening to trust buried deep in the ground of my being.

I am listening.

I am listening to the kind permission of the season
to rest more often, to reflect more deeply, to pray
without words.
I am listening to the sacrament of non-doing.

I am listening.

I am listening to my dreams and inner visions, to the
unknown wrapped in the mystery of my life, to tears
trapped in underground streams of my being, to
seeds watered daily by those tears.

I am listening.

I am listening to the quiet life in winter's womb.
I am listening to winter, nurturing spring.
I am listening to brilliant winter sunsets and
lovely frosty mornings.
I am listening to snowflakes flying through the air,
to the cold winds that often blow out there, to bare
trees, so lovely in their emptiness, to one leaf that
never did let go.

I am listening.

I am listening to winter handing over
spring.
I am listening to the poetry of winter.

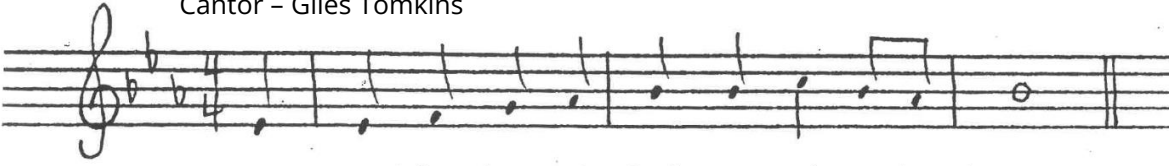
I am listening.

4.

Psalm

Psalm 36:5-10

Cantor - Giles Tomkins



Scripture

Isaiah 62:1-5

New Revised Standard Version

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Holy One will give.
 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Holy One,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
 and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
 but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
 and your land Married;
 for the Holy One delights in you,
 and your land shall be married.
 For as a young man marries a young woman,
 so shall your builder marry you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
 so shall your God rejoice over you.

Anthem

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people,
 To make music from the heart.

6.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.
(Howard Thurman, 1899-1981)

Reflection 'Finding God in an Unkind World' Introduction: John Ryerson, EA Co-chair
Kimberly Curry, Executive Director
Seeds of Hope Foundation

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem Let Justice Roll Like a River Marty Haugen (b. 1950)
Soloists – Alison Roy, Phil Smith, Andrea Ludwig

*Let justice roll like a river, and wash all oppression away;
Come, O God, and take us, move and shake us,
Come now, and make us anew, that we might live justly like you.*

Take from me your holy feasts, all your offerings and your music;
let justice flow like waters, and integrity like an ever flowing stream. *R*

How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your mercy to dawn,
the day we beat our swords into ploughs, when your peace reigns over the earth? *R*

You have been told the way of life, the way of justice and peace;
to act justly, to love gently, and walk humbly with God. *R*
(Marty Haugen)

***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

***Closing Hymn** This Is My Body

**This is my body naked before you,
hungry and sore, dirty and cold;
this is my body, here at your doorstep,
needing the gift you can give.**

**These are my children, streetwise and frightened,
looking for life, dealing in death;
born of my breathing, banding together,
needing the gift you can give.**

**You are my body, born of my breathing;
you are my hands, wrinkled or smooth;
as you are living, learn to be loving,
give me the best that you have.**

***Going Out** Listening to Winter (resprise)

The trees have shed their colorful autumn robes.
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and I am listening.
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***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

The texts for this morning's anthems are reprinted under onelicense.net # A17945. *The Work of Christmas*, © 2014 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. *Let Justice Roll Like a River*, © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

[1]Macrina Wiederkehr, in *The Circle of Life*: by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr, with permission.



*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of
 Jennifer L. Gifford from Tom, Cathy and sister Lindsay.*





Fairlawn Avenue United Church and our Embrace Action Council extends its gratitude to guest speaker Kimberly Curry, Executive Director at Seeds of Hope Foundation for joining us today.

For more information, please visit Seeds of Hope Foundation's website at: <https://www.seedsofhope.ca/>



Please consider donating to the Embrace Action (EA) Fund via the secure QR code. The EA Fund partners with organizations whose work is consistent with our social outreach vision of poverty reduction. For more information, reach out to the EA team at ea@fairlawnavenueunited.ca



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