



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:30am**

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

**Worship Support - Volunteer Co-ordinators
John Cowan, Steve Dunk, John Kimmel, Gary Schlee**

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

Entry into Worship^[1]

Today we tell stories to refresh our courage.

Today we sing songs to lift our spirits.

Today we speak words of life.

Today, may the touch of hands, the sound of laughter,

the sight of faces new and familiar,

restore our faith.

The Christ Candle and Thanksgiving for the Light ~ Worship Support

***Opening Hymn** Praise with Joy the World's Creator

VU #312

**Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.**

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.**

Prayer

Spirit of life, we gather here in loving community.
Keep us in mind of the responsibilities of being human.

Give us the strength to endure, but more,
help us to bring strength to each other.
May we exclude no one intentionally,
but may our church be inclusive as we say it is.

May we hear each other's voices,
those silenced by the imposition of care-lessness,
those silenced by the burden of too many cares,
those silenced by a learned carefulness
that has taught them their words do not matter.

May we be those who hear each other's truths
and choose to care, instead of being dismissive.

May the words we offer be healing,
Welcoming,
Freeing.
Amen.

***Introit**

Your Mercy Will Not Fail Us

E. Daley

Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us, the victory shall be won;
and then, by earth and heaven, your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.
(Edward Plumptre, 1821-1891)

Scriptures**Luke 4.14-21**

Common English Bible

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because the Lord has anointed me.
 He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
 to proclaim release to the prisoners
 and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to liberate the oppressed,
 and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

1 Corinthians 12.12-31

Common English Bible

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many.

We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. Certainly the body isn't one part but many.

If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell?

But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body.

If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? But as it is, there are many parts but one body. So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head

can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary.

The parts of the body that we think are less honourable are the ones we honour the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this.

But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the part with less honour so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.

You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.

In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they?

Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts.

And I'm going to show you an even better way.

Anthem

One Thing

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

One thing, one thing alone,
One thing, one thing I ask from the Lord.
That I may gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.

The Lord is my salvation, God will keep me safe,
In the day of trouble, I will seek God's face.
In the shelter of God's dwelling I will hide.

One thing, one thing alone.
One thing, one thing I seek of the Lord.
That I may dwell within God's House forevermore.
One thing I ask.
(Susan Bentall Boersma, based on Psalm 27)

Reflection

'What Trouble Did You Get Into This Week?'

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

6.

Passing the Peace

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem O Holy Jesus

Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer,
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.
(St. Richard of Chichester – 13th century)

*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]

Holy One,
Speak now to the broken hearts
and troubled souls of our world.

***To those who live in the desert of loneliness
To those who pray in the Gethsemane of anguish
To those bent over in pain
To those in the hell of the consequence of their wrongdoing
To those who weep by the grave of a precious dream,***

Bring wholeness, healing, peace and light. [silence]

We Pray for ourselves,

***Restore the waste places of our lives,
Grant us the grace that restores relationships,
Help us to find straight paths through confusion,
Renew our strength.
Amen.***

Closing Hymn Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

**Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
and only you can teach me how to pray.**

**Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
help me to see your purpose and your will,
where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
held in forgiving love, let me be still.**

**Come with the vision and the strength I need
to serve my God, and all humanity;
fulfillment of my life in love outpoured –
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

***Sending Out**[3]

Go as far as your courage takes you,
you cannot go beyond the reach of God.

Give as extravagantly as you may,
you cannot spend all the riches of God.

Care as lavishly as you are able,
you cannot exhaust the love of God.

Keep journeying as a friend,
God will always be with you.

***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

8.

Halo Gathering

Please join us today after worship service during Coffee Hour in a Halo Gathering at the front of the sanctuary. Our topic of discussion today is 'How To Help People in Challenging Times'.

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[1] C O Dame, adapted, with permission.

[2] JRC Perkin, *With Mind and Heart*, adapted, with permission.

[3] B Hughes, with permission.



Thank you to all the volunteers who have generously donated their time and gifts to supporting worship at Fairlawn Avenue United Church. If you'd like to get involved and volunteer, please reach out to our Explore Spirituality Ministry at es@fairlawnavenueunited.ca.

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