



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, February 16, 2025
10:30am**

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
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**.

Welcome and Acknowledgements

Invitation To Worship [1]

Joy of dawn, joy of dusk,
joy of sunshine, joy of snow,
joy of birth, joy of growth,
joy of maturity, joy of death,
we worship you.

Joy of the meek, joy of the poor,
joy of peacemakers, joy of the pure,
joy of the persecuted, joy of the hungry,
joy of the thirsty, joy of the outcaste,
we worship you.

Joy of givers, joy of the generous,
joy of good measure, pressed down and running over,
joy of the forgiven, joy of the mercy-full,
joy of the loving, joy of the hope-full,
we love and adore you.

Most awesome Friend, in our sanest and purest moments,
we do delight in you
more than misers in gold and kings in sceptres.
Glory be to you, loving Creator, on earth and in heaven,
for ever and ever!

***Opening Hymn** The Church of Christ in Every Age

VU #601

**The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve
and spread Christ's liberating word.**

***Responsive Confession** Beatitudes for the Weird [2]

Blessed are the weird people—poets, misfits, writers,
***mystics, heretics, painters and troubadours—
for they teach us to see the world through different eyes***

Blessed are those who embrace the intensity of life's pain and pleasure,
for they shall be rewarded with uncommon ecstasy

Blessed are you who see beauty in ugliness,
for you shall transform our vision of how the world might be

Blessed are the bold and whimsical,
***for their imagination shatters ancient boundaries of fear
for us all***

Blessed are you who are mocked for unbridled expression of love in all its forms,
***because your kind of irrational is exactly that freedom for which the world
is unconsciously begging***

Blessed are those who have endured breaking by life,
***for they are the resplendent cracks
through which the light shines.
not just on this day but in all our living.***

4.

***Introit**

Be Still Before God

E. Daley

Be still before God,
and wait patiently for God.
(Psalm 37:7)

Scripture Luke 6:27-38

New Century Version

“But I say to you who are listening, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who are cruel to you.

If anyone slaps you on one cheek, offer them the other cheek, too. If someone takes your coat, do not stop them from taking your shirt. Give to everyone who asks you, and when someone takes something that is yours, don't ask for it back.

Do to others what you would want them to do to you.

If you love only the people who love you, what praise should you get? Even sinners love the people who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what praise should you get? Even sinners do that! If you lend things to people, always hoping to get something back, what praise should you get? Even sinners lend to other sinners so that they can get back the same amount!

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without hoping to get anything back. Then you will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God, because God is kind even to people who are ungrateful and full of sin.

Show mercy, just as your Parent shows mercy.

Don't judge others, and you will not be judged. Don't accuse others of being guilty, and you will not be accused of being guilty. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. Pressed down, shaken together, and running over, it will spill into your lap.

The way you give to others is the way God will give to you.”

Anthem

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
Andrea Ludwig – Mezzo Soprano

arr. Fenno Heath (1926-2008)

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
A long ways from home, a long ways from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'd never been born,
 Sometimes I feel like I'd never been born,
 Sometimes I feel like I'd never been born,
 A long ways from home, a long ways from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
 Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
 Sometimes I feel like I'm almost ...
 A long ways from home, a long ways from home.
 (Traditional)

Reflection Burning Cheeks

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Passing of the Peace

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem Peter on the Sea, Sea, Sea, Sea

arr. David Ouchterlony (1914-1987)

Peter, Peter, Peter on the sea, sea, sea, sea,
 Peter, Peter, Peter on the sea, sea, sea, sea,
 Peter, Peter, Peter on the sea, sea, sea, sea,
 Drop yo' nets and follow me, and think of

Daniel, Daniel, Daniel in the lion, lion,
 Daniel, Daniel, Daniel in the lion, lion,
 Daniel, Daniel, Daniel in the lion, lion,
 Daniel in the lion's den.

Gabriel, Gabriel, Gabriel blow yo' trumpet, trumpet,
 Gabriel, Gabriel, Gabriel blow yo' trumpet, trumpet,
 Gabriel, Gabriel, Gabriel blow yo' trumpet, trumpet,
 Gabriel blow yo' trumpet loud.

Who did? Who did? Who did swallow Jonah, Jonah?
 Who did? Who did? Who did swallow Jonah, Jonah?
 Who did? Who did? Who did swallow Jonah, Jonah?
 Who did swallow Jonah up?

6.

Whale did, whale did, whale did swallow Jonah, Jonah,
Whale did, whale did, whale did swallow Jonah, Jonah,
Whale did, whale did, whale did swallow Jonah, Jonah,
Whale did swallow Jonah up!
(Traditional)

***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.**

A Contemporary Psalm of Confession [3]

I am praying again, Awesome One.

You hear me again, as words
from the depths of me
rush toward you in the wind.
I've been scattered in pieces,
torn by conflict,
mocked by laughter,
washed down in drink.

In alleyways I sweep myself up
out of garbage and broken glass.
With my half-mouth I stammer you,
who are eternal in your symmetry.
I lift to you my half-hands
in wordless beseeching,
that I might find again
the eyes with which I once beheld you.

I am a house gutted by fire
where only the guilty sometimes sleep
before the punishment that devours them
hounds them out into the open.

I am a city by the sea
sinking into a toxic tide.

I am strange to myself, as though someone unknown
had poisoned my mother as she carried me.

It's here in all the pieces of my shame
that now I find myself again.
I yearn to belong to something to be contained
in an all-embracing mind that sees me
as a single thing.
I yearn to be held
In the great hands of your heart—
oh let them take me now.

Into them I place these fragments, my life,
and you, God—spend them however you want.

***Closing Hymn** God, Make Us Servants

VU #676

**God, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love,
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly.
For in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
God, make us servants of your peace
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

8.

***Unison Sending Out [4]**

**Open the windows of our minds,
our imagination
and our deepest sensitivity,
so we may know ourselves
to be embraced by grace,
touched with possibility, and
invited to share in the creation of new futures.**

***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

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During the month of February, the Senior Choir will be singing a variety of spirituals, in observance of Black History Month.

[1] John van der Laar, based on Colossians 3:15, adapted, with permission

[2] Thom Shuman, with permission

[3] New Zealand Prayer Book, adapted, with permission

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

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Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. Scan the QR code with your phone or visit www.fairlawnchurch.ca/donate-now/ for the various ways you can donate and support the ministries and work of Fairlawn Avenue United Church. Thank you.



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