



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Communion
Sunday, February 9, 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 Acknowledgement

Invitation To Worship[1]

Though it may seem to us that evil spreads like a virus,
though it may feel naïve to resist it,
we choose to believe that your Spirit's fruit
can satisfy a world that hungers for healing.

And so:

***Wherever hatred and suspicion divide people
and fragment communities,
Wherever sorrow and cynicism
leave the dark stain of despair,
Wherever violence and abuse shatter lives
and destroy the earth,***

***Wherever expediency and the quest for quick fixes
create confusion and need,
Wherever heartlessness and selfishness
cause loneliness and exclusion,***

***Wherever evil and darkness steal away hope and integrity,
Wherever aggression and coercion
remove freedom and playfulness;***

We will pass on gentleness.

***Wherever self-interest and shallowness
undermine relationships and stability,
Wherever lawlessness and carelessness
generate chaos and fear;***

We will pass on faithfulness.

Though it may take our best energy
and our most enduring commitment,
We pray for the courage and the faith
to answer your call,
to resist whatever devils we may face,
and to pass on your abundant life.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn All My Hope On God is Founded**

VU #655

**All my hope on God is founded;
who doth still my trust renew:
I through change and chance am guided,
only good and only true.
God unknown; God alone
calls my heart eternally home.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown, betray our trust;
what with care and toil is built up,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow.
God's desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand hand in hand;
joy doth wait on God's command.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deepest wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attending,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from God's store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

4.

Prayer of Thanksgiving[2]

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.

***And be thankful.
It seems like an afterthought,
God of abundance and of grace.
We forgot to be thankful.
We struggle to be grateful to those close to us,
to our own families at times.
Help us with that.***

As much as we struggle,
being thankful to those we love is easier
than remembering to be thankful
to those faceless many who serve us and provide for us
in ways we rarely acknowledge.

***The migrant who labours in the fields,
The cleaners in our hotel rooms and office buildings,
The cab or Uber drivers we can barely understand,
All can arouse in us fear and uncertainty instead of gratitude.***

Open our eyes, Ever-present Creator,
to opportunities to be grateful.

***Let us lead with thanksgiving;
let us be known for gratitude,
not just on this day but in all our living.
For the peace of Christ can rule in a grateful heart.
Our grateful hearts. Thank you. Amen.***

Introit

O Thou Who at Thy Eucharist Did'st Pray

E. Daley

O thou who at thy Eucharist did'st pray
that thy church might be forever one,
grant that we may all one bread, one body be,
one through this sacrament of unity.
(W. H. Turton, adapted by E. D.)

Scripture 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

New Revised Standard Version

Now I should remind you, my siblings, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Anthem

The Whisper

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

In the desert, in the wilderness of life,
I am searching for the One who searches me.
As I wander, hungry, thirsty, lost, alone,
I hear God's call; I hear the whisper of my name.

*"Come to the table. Your name is written on My hand.
Come to the table. Your name is hidden in My heart.
Come to the table, come to the table,
Come to the table and live."*

At the table, He prepares for me a place.
He redeems me, I am pardoned by His grace.
He restores me with His rich and lavish love.
In His call, I hear the whisper of my name. *R*
(Susan Bentall Boersma)

Reflection

Birthright

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

6.

Passing the Peace

The Sacrament of Communion

Communion Bread: A Story

Welcome to the Table

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

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem Ride the Chariot

arr. William Henry Smith (1908-1944)

Soloists – Andrea Ludwig, Amy Dodington

*I'm gonna ride the chariot in the morning, Lord,
Ride the chariot in the morning, Lord,
I'm gettin' ready for the judgment day,
My Lord, my Lord.*

Are you ready my brother? Oh, yes.
Are you ready for the journey? Oh, yes.
Do you want to see your Jesus?
Oh, yes, I'm waitin' for the chariot
'cause I'm ready to go. *R*

Are you ready my sister? Oh, yes.
Are you ready for the journey? Oh, yes.
Do you want to see your Jesus?
Oh, yes, I'm waitin' for the chariot
'cause I'm ready to go.

I never can forget that day, ride!
When all my sins were taken away, ride!
My feet were snatched from the miry clay, ride!
I'll serve my Lord till judgment day, ride! *R*

I'm gonna ride in the chariot to see my Lord.

***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^[3]

**Eternal Spirit
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.**

**The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn O Holy Spirit, Root of Life**

VU #379

**O Holy Spirit, root of life,
creator, cleanser of all things,
anoint our wounds, awaken us
with lustrous movement of your wings.**

8. **Eternal Vigour, saving one,
you free us by your living word,
becoming flesh to wear our pain,
and all creation is restored.**

**O Holy Wisdom, soaring power,
encompass us with wings unfurled,
and carry us, encircling all,
above, below, and through the world.**

***Unison Sending Out^[4]**

**Spirit of God,
may this bread which was broken,
become our wholeness.
In this time of grace,
may this cup which was poured
touch our lips with healing.**

**In this time when we felt the brush
of your fingertips caressing us,
may we believe that your justice and peace
can be shared with all people;
that our hearts can bear the burdens of others;
that we may bring joy to the lonely and hurting.**

**When our journey is ended,
and we have followed you into eternity,
we will gather around your Table,
in that silence, which is only your grace,
in that place, which is only your heart,
in that time, which is only your love:
God in Community, Holy in One.
Amen.**

***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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