



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
The First Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 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 Acknowledgements

### Invitation To Worship

Lent has begun.  
The Season of questioning what is of true value,  
what is distraction,  
what diminishes us,  
what we might be . . .  
if we managed to focus  
not on what we lack,  
but what we need,  
not on what might gain,  
but what we might surrender,  
for the sake of being more.  
More human,  
more integrated as spiritual beings,  
more, we dare to say,  
like Jesus.

**\*Opening Hymn** God of the Farmlands

VU #306 (verses 1, 2, 4 and 6)

**God of the farmlands, hear our prayer,  
God of the growing seed,  
O bless the fields, for to your care  
we look in all our need.**

**God of the rivers in their course  
God of the swelling sea,  
where we must strive with nature's force,  
our guardian ever be.**

**God of the city's throbbing heart,  
God of its industry,  
bid greed and base deceit depart,  
give true prosperity.**

**God of the nations, women, men,  
 God of each humble soul,  
 we seek your gracious aid again,  
 O come and make us whole.**

**\*Responsive Confession [1]**

From the deep wilderness of chaos,  
 you brought forth the refuge of your heart,  
 God our God, creating

***mountains that shade the valleys below,  
 rich grain and vegetables to feed the hungry,  
 rivers and lakes filled with the water of life.***

This creation was entrusted to those  
 shaped in your image, the first fruits of your love,

***but we chose to follow temptation  
 into wilderness we call death.***

Seeking to be generous to all,  
 you continued to send prophets to us,  
 people who carried your words  
 to us in their hands and their hearts,

***yet we continued to serve the empty  
 promises of greed and fear.***

You sent the Word near to us  
 in Jesus, the One who came to reveal  
 your grace to us.

***With old-timers as well as newcomers,  
 with insiders and those who have stood outside  
 we offer our songs of praise to you.***

**\*Introit**

Who Can Save Us, Lord, But Thou?

E. Daley

Who can save us, Lord, but thou?  
 Let thy mercy show thy power.  
 Lo, we plead thy promise now,  
 now in this accepted hour.  
 (Latin, ca. 11<sup>th</sup> century,  
 trans. John Ellerton, 1826-1893)

When you go into the land the Lord your God is giving you as your own, to take it over and live in it, you must take some of the first harvest of crops that grow from the land the Lord your God is giving you. Put the food in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God will choose to be worshiped.

Say to the priest on duty at that time, "Today I declare before the Lord your God that I have come into the land the Lord promised our ancestors that he would give us." The priest will take your basket and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God.

Then you shall announce before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt with only a few people, but they became a great, powerful, and large nation there. But the Egyptians were cruel to us, making us suffer and work very hard. So we prayed to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and he heard us. When he saw our trouble, hard work, and suffering, the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his great power and strength, using great terrors, signs, and miracles. Then he brought us to this place and gave us this fertile land.

Now I bring part of the first harvest from this land that you, Lord, have given me." Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and foreigners among you should rejoice, because the Lord your God has given good things to you and your family.

**Anthem** Forty Days and Forty Nights

attrib. Martin Herbst (1654-1681)

arr. Harrison Oxley (1933-2009)

Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights tempted and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day, chilly dewdrops nightly shed,  
Prowling beasts about thy way, stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share, and from earthly joys abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain.

And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before, grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine, holier gladness ours shall be,  
Round us too shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, ever constant by thy side,  
That with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.  
(G. H. Smyttan, 1832-1870/F. Pott, 1832-1909)

**Reflection**      The Bounty of Lent

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

## Passing of the Peace

## Introduction of the Offering

**Offertory Anthem** So the Day Dawn

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

So the day dawn for me, so the day break,  
Christ watching over me, Christ as I wake.  
Be the day shine to me, be the day bright.  
Christ my companion be, Christ be my light.

Be the day dark to me, be the day drear,  
Christ shall my comfort be, Christ be my cheer.  
Be the day swift to me, be the day long,  
Christ my contentment be, Christ be my song.

So the day dawn for me, so the day break,  
Christ watching over me, Christ as I wake,  
So the day close for me, so the night fall,  
Christ watching over me, Christ be my all.  
(Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926)

## \*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 Confession [2]

Jesus began his ministry to the world,  
led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

***As we begin our Lenten journey,  
let us be led by the Spirit,  
even into the uncomfortable places.***

6.

In those forty days, and in that place,  
Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

***As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led,  
even into the uncomfortable choices.***

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God,  
rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

***As we continue on our path to faithfulness,  
we will be led by our Christ,  
rejoicing in the Holy One.***

**\*Closing Hymn** Now Quit Your Care

VU #109 (verses 1, 3, 4 and 5)

**Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry;  
for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.  
Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;  
God brings new beauty nigh;  
reply, reply, reply with love to love most high;  
reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.**

**For is not this the fast that I have chosen  
(the prophet spoke) to shatter every yoke,  
of wickedness the grievous bonds to loosen,  
oppression put to flight,  
to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right,  
to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right.**

**For righteousness and peace will show their faces  
to those who feed the hungry in their need,  
and wrongs redress, who build the old waste places,  
and in the darkness shine.  
Divine, divine, divine it is when all combine!  
Divine, divine, divine it is when all combine!**

**Then shall your light break forth as does the morning;  
your health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring  
God's glory bright, your way through life adorning;  
and love shall be the prize.  
Arise, arise, arise and make a paradise!  
Arise, arise, arise and make a paradise!**

## \*Prayer as We Depart [3]

**Now let us go from this place of haven  
The Creator has given to us.  
Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those  
who are filled with fears, with hopes.**

**Led by the Spirit, we will go to feed  
those who hunger for companionship and life.**

**Now we go into the world, living out God's reality  
that there is no distinction between people.  
Led by the Spirit, we go to serve  
the kindred who are our true family.**

## \*Choral Commissioning

E. Daley

(The choir will sing through once, and then the congregation is invited to join in.)

**O Lord, throughout this time of Lent,  
may we close by you stay,  
we walk with you, as we await  
the joy of Easter Day.**

(E. D.)

## Postlude

This morning's offertory anthem text is reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945.  
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[1] Thom Shuman, adapted, with permission [2] ibid [3] ibid

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**The Senior Choir of Fairlawn Avenue  
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music**

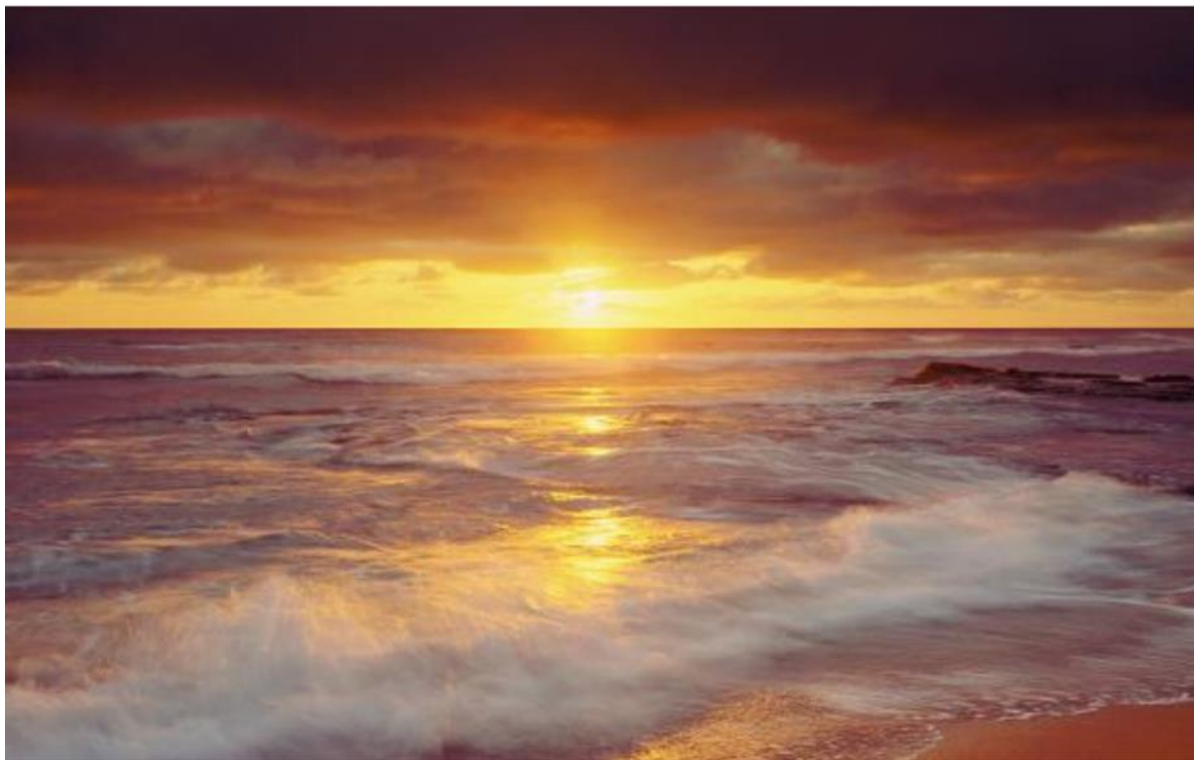
presents

# *Requiem*

by K. Lee Scott

with

Chamber Orchestra



**Sunday, March 30 at 10:30am**