



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church
Sunday, April 27, 2025
10:30am
Earth Day Sunday**

**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 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty arr. Nancy and Randall Faber
Katherine Newton – Guest Pianist
Amy Dodington – Soprano

Responsive Prayer of Openness^[1]

Gracious and loving God
who made all the world,
***we come before you this morning
in worship and praise,
in longing and anticipation.
We wait to receive your Word broken open,
and in so doing, to be broken open, ourselves.***

Incarnate God, ready us now,
***so that it is you we know,
and not our own selves projected onto you.***

Holy Spirit,
empower us now,
***to enter fully into worship,
and to leave, later, transformed
and ready to live out your Love and Wisdom.***

***Hymn** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty VU #220

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear:
brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen
how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.**

Responsive Confession[2]

God of promise and purpose,
You set before us a dream of your new heaven and Earth,

***We recognize that it calls for transformation.
We confess that we don't want transformation;
we want easy fixes.
We want the change, but not to do the changing.***

Forgive us, O God,

***For asking for change but not being willing to do the work.
Forgive us for accepting the status quo,
and for our roles in holding it up.
Forgive our ways of thinking and acting that avoid transformation.***

Create in us hearts made new by your mercy and love,

***and move us to work toward your vision
of a new heaven and Earth. Amen.***

Introit

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

E. Daley

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
(Psalm 51:10)

When it was evening on the first day of the week, Jesus' followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the [religious leaders]. Then Jesus came and stood right in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. His followers were thrilled when they saw the Lord.

Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, I now send you." After he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Thomas (called Didymus), who was one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other followers kept telling Thomas, "We saw the Lord."

But Thomas said, "I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side."

A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood right in the middle of them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop being an unbeliever and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly blessed."

Jesus did many other miracles in the presence of his followers that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you may have life through his name.

Anthem O Risen Christ

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

O risen Lord, most glorious Son,
 Now is the mighty battle won:
 Songs of praising we are raising: Alleluia!

On the third morning he arose,
Shining in vict'ry o'er his foes;
Earth is singing, heaven is ringing: Alleluia!

After the death that him befell,
Christ our Lord has harrowed hell,
Sing with gladness, gone is sadness: Alleluia!

The Lord of all things lives anew,
And all his saints are rising too:
May our living be thanksgiving: Alleluia!
(John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.)

Reflection 'Off Grid'

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

An Expression of Thanksgiving The Book Sale

Passing the Peace

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem Lord of the Empty Tomb

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Lord of the empty tomb, visit the tomb of my heart.
Roll from its entrance the stone of defeat with Your victory.

Lord of the empty tomb, enter the tomb of my heart.
Bring to the darkness the Light of the World with Your purity.

Raise me to know You, to stand in Your presence,
to walk in Your freedom, to dance to the beat of forgiveness,
to worship your holiness.

Lord of the empty tomb, transform the tomb of my heart.
Bring to the emptiness fullness of joy as You make it your home.
(Susan Bentall Boersma)

***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.**

6.

Prayers of the People

***O Canada**

Melody: Calixa Lavallée (1842-1891)

**O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**
(Robert Stanley Weir, 1856-1926)

***Unison Prayer as We Depart^[3]**

**Jesus the Christ, teach us to empathise with Earth.
Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation,
cries for justice from the land, the seas and the skies.
Jesus Christ,
make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit
in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.
Jesus Christ,
make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin,
songs of celebration from the sea, the forest and the air.
Christ, teach us to care. 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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[1] United Church of Canada, 2025, with permission

[2] United Church of Canada, 2025, with permission

[3] Australian Liturgy, www.seasonofcreation.com, with permission

Katherine Newton, born with Down syndrome, has been playing the piano for most of her life. She has studied piano with Joanne Nasmith and in recent years with Amy Dodington. She has at least two connections with Fairlawn: Amy is her cousin, and Jill Klaehn was one of her favourite school teachers at Centennial Infant and Child Centre when she was little. Katherine now works at Centennial, assisting the teachers and playing piano for the children. She is thrilled to be playing and accompanying Amy at Fairlawn today.

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AGM

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting, May 4, 2025

Our AGM will be held next Sunday, May 4 immediately after a shortened service in the sanctuary. Please stay to reflect on the year gone by and to consider our Visioning Report.

For the AGM Agenda, 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Budget, there is a link in *Greetings!*, or please visit our website: <https://www.fairlawchurch.ca/aboutus/forms-docs/annual-report/>.

Hard copies will be available in the office the week of April 28 and will be provided at the AGM.