



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Mother's Day Sunday, May 11, 2025
10:30am**

**Heritage of Peace Sunday
Red Dress 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[1]

Holy One,
You are enough for us;
you give us rest in soft fields
and beside whispering streams;
you restore and renew us,
and lead us into life-giving ways.
This day we seek those ways, together.

***Opening Hymn** Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU #374

**Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

Introit	Blessing for Mothers	E. Daley
	<p>We thank you, Creator, for mothers everywhere, Lord, may your love surround them, may your strength protect them, and may your truth guide them. Amen. (Christopher Idle, b. 1938)</p>	
Scripture	Psalm 23	King James Version
	<p>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.</p> <p>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.</p> <p>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.</p> <p>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.</p> <p>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.</p>	
Anthem	A Family of Love	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
	<p>Thank you, God, for family, for those we call our own, for giving to each other a place to call our home. For sisters and for brothers, for loved ones all alone, we thank you, God, for family, our family of love.</p> <p>We are one in God's Son. We are one, a family of love.</p> <p>We are always together, whether we're near or apart; all united together, a family of love.</p> <p>Thank you, God, for children you are trusting us to raise, and for the ones who raised us, we give to you the praise. Each one, part of you, Father, extensions from above. We thank you for our family, our family of love.</p>	

We are always together, whether we're near or apart;
 all united together, together in our heart.
 We are joined by your Spirit, coming or when we depart,
 all of us joining together, a family of love.
 (Mary McDonald)

Reflection Who Does the Heavy Lifting?

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Passing the Peace

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem Irish Blessing

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

May the road rise to meet you,
 may the wind be always at your back,
 may the sun shine warm upon your face,
 and the rain fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again, may God hold you,
 ever in the palm of his hand.
 (Traditional Irish)

***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!

6.

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** God is My Shepherd

VU page 748

**God is my shepherd, I'll not want,
I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink
from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led
by one I have not seen.**

**Restored to life each morning new,
I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives
me confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today;
in God I put my trust.**

**When I must pass through shadowed vale,
where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there,
my shepherd strong and great,
whose rod and staff will comfort me
and all my fears abate.**

**No enemy can overcome,
no power on earth defeat
the ones anointed by God's grace
and fed with manna sweet.
My cup is filled and overflows
as I my Saviour greet.**

**Goodness and mercy all my days
 will surely follow me;
 and where God reigns in heaven and earth,
 my dwelling place will be.
 My shepherd blesses, cares and leads
 through all eternity.**

***Benediction[4]**

**Generous Giver of all things:
 in your presence my inner spirit is fully satisfied.
 I know I share in the abundance of life.
 I can lie down without fear.
 I can sit beside the stillness of the river.
 I find my soul is strengthened.**

**I know there are right paths.
 My God will guide me to them.**

**I know I must face the shadows of life and meet my death.
 I will do so with courage.**

**I know there is an unseen presence with me
 that gives me comfort and strength.**

**Generous Giver
 along with all the uncertainties and threats of life,
 you provide me with good gifts.
 When I have enough, you pour into my life something more.
 Indeed: my cup overflows.
 May I find and give goodness and kindness every day of my life.**

**Let my life be a constant expression of my desire
 to reflect your good presence
 wherever I am, wherever I go.
 Wherever.
 Forever!**

8.

*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.**

[1] From a prayer of John van der Laar, adapted, with permission

[2] M. Kemen, adapted, with permission

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

[4] Frances MacNab, with permission

The red dresses hanging in our sanctuary is our acknowledgement of the sorrow and courage of the families of our Indigenous neighbours for their mothers, sisters, daughters, aunties and friends who are missing or known to be murdered, and who cry for justice.

Fairlawn Avenue United Church is committed to the actions described in the Truth and Reconciliation Report, and bears witness to our national complicity in attempting to ignore the loss of these women. <https://www.jaimeblackartist.com/>

Minister – Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
cameron.fairlawn@gmail.com

Director of Music – Eleanor Daley
eleanor@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Administrator – Joanne Christie
joanne@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Bookkeeper – Heather de la Rua
heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Admin. Support – Celine Cheung
celine@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Website
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/>

Events Calendar
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/events/>

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<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/spirituality/sermons/>

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**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church**
28 Fairlawn Avenue
Toronto, ON M5M 1S7
T: 416-481-6848



www.fairlawnchurch.ca

churchoffice@fairlawnavenueunited.ca