



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
Sunday September 7, 2025 10:30am  
"The Truth Shall Set You Free"  
Communion**

**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 indicated in ***bold italics*** and unison in **bold** text.

## **Welcome and Acknowledgement**

**\*Opening Hymn** VU #573 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

**Unison Prayer of Longing**<sup>[1]</sup> Hear Me Quickly Lord

Part I

**Hear me quickly, Lord,  
for my mind soon wanders to other things  
I am more familiar with  
and more concerned about  
than I am with you.**

**O Timeless God, for whom I do not have time,  
catch me with a sudden stab of beauty  
or pain  
or regret**

**that will catch me up short for a moment  
to look hard enough at myself –  
the unutterable terror  
and hope within me  
and, so, to be caught by you.**

**Words will not do, Lord.  
Listen to my tears,  
for I have lost much  
and fear more.**

**Listen to my sweat,  
for I wake at night  
overwhelmed by darkness and strange dreams.**

**Listen to my sighs,  
for my longing surges like the sea –  
urgent, mysterious and beckoning.**

**Listen to my heart beat,  
for I want to live fully  
and stay death forever.**

**Listen to my breathing,  
for I gulp after something like holiness.  
Listen to my clenched teeth,  
for I gnaw at my grudges  
and forgive myself as reluctantly  
as I forgive others.**

**Listen to my growling gut,  
for I hunger for bread and intimacy.  
Listen to my curses,  
for I am angry at the way the world  
comes down on me sometimes,  
and I sometimes on it.**

**Listen to my cracking knuckles,  
for I hold very tightly to myself  
and anxiously squeeze myself into other's expectations,  
and them into mine,  
and then shake my fists at you  
for disappointing me.**

**Listen to me.**

**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, 1856-1938)

**Scripture**

Jeremiah 18:1-11 (NRSV)

Reader: Mary Swift

**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.

4.

*"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)

**Unison Prayer of Longing**<sup>[2]</sup> Hear Me Quickly Lord

Part II

**Listen to my sex,  
for I seek fulfillment  
through the man-woman differences  
and beyond the differences,  
a new, common humanity.**

**Listen to my foot falls,  
for I stumble to bring good tidings to someone.  
Listen to my groans,  
for I ache toward healing.  
Listen to my worried weariness,  
for my work matters much to me  
and needs help.  
Listen to my tension,  
for I stretch toward accepting who I am  
and who I cannot be.**

**Listen to my wrinkles,  
for growing years make each day  
singularly precious to me  
and bring eternity breathtakingly close.**

**Listen to my hunched back,  
for sometimes I can't bear  
the needs and demands of the world anymore  
and want to put it down,  
give it back to you.**

**Listen to me.**

**Reflection**     The Truth Shall Set You Free

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

**Refugee Ministry – Welcome Yamen Omer**

**Passing the Peace**

**The Sacrament of Communion ~ Invitation to the Table ~ Sharing of the Elements**

**Communion Anthem** As We Gather at Your Table

E. Daley

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
 help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
 teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
 may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
 where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
 There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.  
 (Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944)

**Introduction of Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*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<sup>[3]</sup>**

6.

**\*Closing Hymn** VU #202 O Breath of Life

**\*Unison Going Out**<sup>[4]</sup> Hear Me Quickly Lord

Part III

**Listen to me, Lord,  
Listen to my laughter,  
for there are friends and mercy  
and the day grows longer,  
and something urges me to thank.**

**Listen to my humming,  
for sometimes I catch all unaware  
the rhythms of creation  
and then music without words  
rises in me to meet it,  
and there is the joy of romping children  
and dancing angels.**

**Listen to my blinking eyes,  
for at certain moments  
when sunlight strikes just right,  
or stars pierce the darkness just enough,  
or clouds roll around just so,  
or snow kisses the earth into quietness,  
everything is suddenly transparent,  
and crows announce the presence of another world,  
and dogs bark at it,**

**and something in me is pure enough  
for an instant  
to see your kingdom in a glance,  
and so to praise you in a gasp—  
quick,  
then gone,  
but it is enough.**

**Listen to me quickly, Lord.**

**\*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**

This morning's anthems are reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945. *The Whisper*, © 2012 Beckenhorst Press Inc. *As We Gather at Your Table*, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

[1][2][4] Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace, with permission.

[3] Parker Palmer, with permission.

**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** – Xin Li  
xinli@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

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

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

**Online Worship**  
<https://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/spirituality/sermons/>

**Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/FairlawnAveChurch>

**Instagram**  
<https://www.instagram.com/fairlawnavenueunited/>

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. Scan the QR code with your phone or visit [www.fairlawnchurch.ca/donate-now/](http://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.



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



[www.fairlawnchurch.ca](http://www.fairlawnchurch.ca)  
[churchoffice@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:churchoffice@fairlawnavenueunited.ca)

