



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday January 18, 2026 10:30am
Social Justice Sunday**

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir
Guest: Angie Hocking**

2.

*Indicates when the congregation is to stand, as able.
Congregational responses indicated in ***bold italics*** and unison in **bold** text.

Welcome and Acknowledgement

Entry into Worship[1]

The first love says,

"I loved you before you could love anyone or before you could receive love from anyone.

I have accepted you.

You are accepted.

You are loved no matter what mother, father, brother, sister, school, church, society does.

We are born out of Holy love.

The Holy One says,

I have breathed you out of my love;

I have spoken you out of my love;

***We are the incarnation of love
and in the Holy One there is no hatred,
there is no revenge,
there is no resentment.***

There is nothing that wants to reject you.

The Holy One says, I love you.

Can you trust that love?

***The original love is the original blessing.
The original love is the original acceptance.
We live in the Presence of the Originator of love.***

***Opening Hymn** O Love, How Deep

VU #348 (verses 1-5)

***Prayer[2]**

**Praise be to you, O Lord, for life
and for my intense desire to live;
praise be to you for the mystery of love
and for my intense desire to be a lover;
praise be to you for this day
and another chance to live and love.**

*Introit	What Does God Require of You?	E. Daley
	What does God require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)	
Scripture	Deuteronomy 24:19–22 (CEB)	Reader: Sue Ennis
Scripture	Mark 10:46–52 (CEB)	Reader: John Cowan
Anthem	The Work of Christmas	Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
	When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:	
	To find the lost, to heal the broken, To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people, To make music from the heart.	
	When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins. (Howard Thurman, 1899-1981)	
Reflection:	“The Shower Curtain Gospel”	Special Guest: Angie Hocking
Passing the Peace		
Introduction of Offering		

Offertory Anthem The Gate of the Year

John Butler (b. 1944)

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
 And he replied, "Go out into the darkness
 and put your hand into the hand of God.
 That shall be to you better than light
 and safer than a known way!"
 (Minnie Louise Haskins, 1875-1957)

***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***Closing Hymn** Take My Life, and Let it Be

VU #506

***Sending Out**

**Lord, grant me grace, then,
 and a portion of your spirit
 that I may so live
 as to give others cause
 to be thankful for me,**

**thankful because I have not forgotten
 how to hope,
 how to laugh,
 how to say, "I'm sorry,"
 how to forgive,
 how to bind up wounds,
 how to dream,
 how to cry,
 how to pray,
 how to love when it is hard,
 and how to dare when it is dangerous.**

**Undamn me, Lord,
that praise may flow more easily from me
than wants,
thanks more readily
than complaints.**

**Praise be to you, Lord, for life;
praise be to you for another chance to live.**

***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

[1] Henri Nouwen, adapted, with permission, from *"Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety"*

[2] The Prayers and Sending Out are from *"Praise Be To You for Life,"* in Ted Loder's *Guerillas of Grace*, and it is used with permission.



Angie Hocking, Special Guest

For nearly 20 years, Angie's had a passion for uplifting the marginalized in Toronto, as well as helping the church connect to issues of poverty, homelessness, and solidarity. As Community Minister at the Regent Park Community Ministry for the last 4 years, she helped launch and leads TUHU (the Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union), runs a Friday church, leads community engagements and trainings, and supports advocacy work around homelessness in the downtown east community. Angie is also an ordained Deacon in the Anglican church, and was raised in the evangelical church - a proud denominational mutt. At home she's a mom, spouse, and dog mom!



Please consider donating to the Embrace Action (EA) Fund via the secure QR code. The EA Fund partners with organizations whose work is consistent with our social outreach vision of poverty reduction. For more information, reach out to the EA team at ea@fairlawnavenueunited.ca



The flowers in the chancel today are in loving memory of Jennifer L. Gifford from Tom, Cathy and sister Lindsay.

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