



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
Sunday, March 15, 2026 10:30am  
Lent IV**

**Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver  
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music  
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir**

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

## Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation.

This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase. Today, Toronto is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

***We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land.***

***We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.***

\*Processional Hymn As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU #111

## \*Gathering Prayer

Loving God, open our hearts

***that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.***

Unclench our hands

***that we may reach out to one another,  
and touch and be healed.***

Open our lips

***that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.***

Open our eyes

***that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.***

Breathe your Spirit into us,

***and touch our lives with the life of Christ. Amen.***



4.

***We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.***

***We trust in God.***

***We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.***

***Thanks be to God.***

**\*Hymn**

Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart

VU #513

(The choir will sing verse 1 and then the congregation is invited to join in on verses 2, 3 and 4)

### **Introduction to the Offering**

Out of love and duty,  
faithful women brought perfume and ointment  
to a garden tomb.

***Intending to preserve the dead,  
they found new life, instead.***

Now, out of love and duty,  
we bring our gifts.

***May they bring life to us and to others.  
Amen.***

**Offertory Anthem O Love**

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

O Love that will not let me go,  
 I rest my weary soul in thee;  
 I give thee back the life I owe,  
 That in thy ocean depths its flow  
 May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain,  
 I cannot close my heart to thee;  
 I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
 And feel the promise is not vain  
 That morn shall tearless be.  
 (George Matheson, 1842-1906)

**\*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**

With humble trust let us pray saying:

Shape these the prayers of ordinary lives  
***that they, and we, may serve your purposes.***

We pray for your church.  
 Help us to learn from and affirm all those  
 whose experience of your presence and activity in their lives differs from ours.  
 Help us to see your grace at work beyond  
 our understanding, our insight, our viewpoints and perspectives.

Shape these the prayers of ordinary lives  
***that they, and we, may serve your purposes.***

We pray for the creation.  
 You make and re-make all things, renewing them in love.  
 You hate and despise nothing you have made.

6.

Teach us to see your full vision expressed in diversity and difference.  
Teach us the true worth of your creation that we not devalue or waste it.

Shape these the prayers of ordinary lives

***that they, and we, may serve your purposes.***

We pray for the nations of the world.

You seek rulers after your own heart.

Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials

We thank you for the democracy in which we live.

In the decisions and political choices that are ours

may we seek your Community of Care.

Shape these the prayers of ordinary lives

***that they, and we, may serve your purposes.***

We pray for those who suffer physically or psychologically.

Lead them beside still waters and restore their souls.

Accompany those who walk through shadow lands of grief.

By your presence, comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness  
spread a table before them to strengthen and to sustain.

Shape these the prayers of ordinary lives

***that they, and we, may serve your purposes.***

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints,

especially this week we are mindful of Patrick

and his many gifts bequeathed to us.

Like him, may we daily bind ourselves to you,

O Great Trinity of Love.

As Jesus' hands shaped new reality from spit and dirt,

shape these the prayers of ordinary lives, and everyday concerns

***that they, and we, may serve your purposes,***

***You to whom we turn***

***as children turn to a resourceful and resilient mother,***

***as children look to a gentle and nurturing father.***

***May your name be hallowed, may your rule come,***

***may your will be done, on earth as in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the rule, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

**\*Recessional Hymn** As a Fire is Meant for Burning

VU #578

**\*Blessing** Every child has known God,  
not the God of names,  
not the God of don't,  
not the God who does anything weird,  
but the God who only knows four words  
and keeps repeating them, saying:  
"Come dance with Me."  
Come Dance.

— Hafiz

May the Trinity of Love  
Love uncreated, Love incarnate, Love among and within,  
enfold you, empower you, equip you.  
Go from this place to love and to serve.

**\*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**

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