



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
Sunday, March 8, 2026 10:30am  
Lent III**

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver  
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 Land Acknowledgement

Creator, you made all people of every land in your image,  
and entrusted them with the care of the earth.

***It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect  
to those who first occupied this land we are upon.***

We give thanks to the Huron-Wendat,  
Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations,  
and the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation:  
the first peoples of this land.

We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land.

***Creator let us be of Good Mind  
to reconcile the mistreatment of this land  
and those who have been displaced.***

We give thanks for Indigenous voices.

***Give us attentive ears to hear them,  
and sincere and open hearts  
that we may embrace the work of reconciliation  
to which you call your Church.***

With thankful and respectful hearts,

***we pray in Your name,  
Your Son the Peacemaker  
and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.***

**\*Processional Hymn** For the Music of Creation

VU #535

**For the music of creation,  
for the song your Spirit sings,  
for your sound's divine expression,  
burst of joy in living things:  
God, our God, the world's composer,  
hear us, echoes of your voice:  
music is your art, your glory,  
let the human heart rejoice!**

**Psalms and symphonies exalt you,  
 drum and trumpet, string and reed,  
 simple melodies acclaim you,  
 tunes that rise from deepest need,  
 hymns of longing and belonging,  
 carols from a cheerful throat,  
 lilt of lullaby and love song  
 catching heaven in a note.**

**All the voices of the ages  
 in transcendent chorus meet,  
 worship lifting up the senses,  
 hands that praise, and dancing feet;  
 over discord and division  
 music speaks your joy and peace,  
 harmony of earth and heaven,  
 song of God that cannot cease!**

### **\*Gathering Prayer**

Into this Holy space God's spirit dances  
 amongst us and within us,  
 holding each in love and acceptance.

***Here in this place of prayer,  
 surrounded by the saints who have gone before,  
 is where we gather as community.***

We don't always agree.  
 We aren't always sure of what we are doing.  
 We often doubt – ourselves and others.  
 We struggle to find hope.

But we are here Sunday after Sunday.

***Looking to find our way,  
 praying ourselves into relationship –  
 with the Holy, with each other and with our world.  
 Praying ourselves into soul health  
 and out of the wild places of our lives.  
 Reminding each other to believe that we do not walk alone.***

May it be so. May it be so.

***Amen.***

**\*Introit**

God is Spirit

E. Daley

God is Spirit, and those who worship God  
must worship in spirit and truth.

(John 4:24)

**Sharing Peace**

To speak the words

"The Peace of the Lord be with you."

is to make a start at loving others as we love ourselves

is to recognize another's humanity

is to acknowledge the legitimacy of their claim upon us

is to yearn, with them, for the peace which passes understanding.

This peace is never quick, or simple, or easy

it is slow, complex, and difficult

and it comes at a price.

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

**Scripture**

John 3:1-8

(NRSV)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 4:5-13, 19-20, 23-24

(NRSV)

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."...The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."... But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Anthem**

As Water to the Thirsty

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,  
 As strength that follows weakness, as truth instead of lies,  
 As songtime and springtime and summertime to be,  
 So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamour, like peace that follows pain,  
 Like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain,  
 Like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea,  
 So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

6.

As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of grey,  
As freedom after bondage, as sunrise to the day,  
As home to the traveller and all we long to see,  
So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.  
(Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926)

**Reflection**     Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver

**\*Confession of Faith**

We are not alone,  
***we live in God's world.***

***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**

## Three Things I Promise

**Three things I promise, Holy God,  
in age and youth, in life and death:  
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**

**Your love unfolded time and space,  
and life, and all that life became,  
and so, with thankful heart and voice,  
through good and ill, I bless your Name.**

**I follow, serve, and cling to Christ  
amid our culture's tides and trends,  
for here your Name is most revealed:  
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.**

**Enlivened as the Spirit moves  
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,  
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,  
may seed and grow in all I do.**

**If I should live when vigour fades,  
and family and friends are gone,  
three acts of loving faith remain  
when days are slow, and work is done.**

**Revive and guide me, Living God,  
as day by day, until my death,  
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**

(Brian Wren, 1997)

**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.***

8.

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

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

***Amen.***

### **Offertory Anthem** A Celtic Prayer

Barry Peters (b. 1957)

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet  
walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands  
stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart  
open up your hearts to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,  
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

Amen.

(Traditional Celtic)

### **\*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**

In peace let us pray saying:

One thing we ask

***give us hearts of compassion.***

For this community, our country, and the world;  
for an end to racism and all forms of oppression,  
and an end to poverty and all social injustice.

One thing we ask

***give us hearts of compassion.***

For the victims of heat and drought, hunger and thirst,  
economic exploitation, and climate extremes.

One thing we ask

***give us hearts of compassion.***

For all people in their daily life and work  
and for those out of work, overburdened,  
or facing financial difficulties.

One thing we ask

***give us hearts of compassion.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
For our own needs and those of others,  
remembering especially those of our community  
who are in particular need at this time.

One thing we ask

***give us hearts of compassion.***

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ,  
and for those whose faith is known to you alone,  
that they may be held secure in your love.

One thing we ask

***give us hearts of compassion.***

For women and girls around the world  
mothers, daughters, sisters, siblings, aunts, and cousins  
For the praised and the persecuted  
the icons and the ignored  
the impervious and the imperilled  
the loved and the loveless.

For indigenous women, the murdered and the missing,  
their families and their communities.

Remind us how Jesus,  
 sitting with a woman by a well  
 heard her into speech, simply by listening;  
 leaving the twelve with nothing to say.  
 Strengthen the hearts and voices of women.  
 Soften the hearts and ears of men.  
 That your Community of Care may come.

We turn to you,  
 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** Jesus Christ is Waiting

VU #117

**Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
 no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
 Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.**

**Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
 where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
 In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.**

**Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
 curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
 Let my care be active, healing just like you.**

**Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
 where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.  
 On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.**

**Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
 “Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.”  
 Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.  
 Walk one step before me; I will follow you.**

**\*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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