



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Pentecost ~ Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
Sunday, May 24, 2026 10:30am**

**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.
Screen: Congregational responses, unison and singing in white text.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Today we acknowledge
that the land on which this building stands,
***a building in which and from which
we worship and serve,***

occupies a portion of the traditional territory
of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee,
and Anishinabek Nations,
and the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation.

***We are grateful for this land,
for its people,
and for the knowledge and wisdom
they freely share with us.***

"In the traditions
and in the languages I've known,
we didn't have a word for work
until we met Europeans.

We have a word for living
and work is part of living.
Everything is living.
We never divide life
into work and play
and recreation and rest.
We live which includes them all.
We do what we need to do to live."
(José Hobday)

Prelude to Pentecost A re-telling of Luke 27:49 and Acts 1:13-14, 2ab-26

The Time Has Come (Pentecost is NOW) A re-telling of Acts 2:1-4, 7a, 8

Introit Veni Creator Spiritus

Veni. (Come.)

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire,
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sev'nfold gifts impart.
(Latin 9th century, attrib. Rabanus Maurus, d. 856
trans. John Cosin, 1594-1677)

Sevenfold Gifts I Corinthians 12:1, 4-13, 24b-28, 31, 13:1-3

***Opening Hymn** God is Here!

VU #389 (verses 1 and 2)

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.

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls I Corinthians 12:26a, 13:4-7

A prayer shawl ministry begins first with a knitter
or sometimes a group of knitters
who take on the holy task of knitting a shawl
for the comfort and peace of another.

This means that from the first stitch cast
the knitter knits with intent
knowing that the shawl is for someone,
sometimes known, oftentimes unknown
who has need of comfort, of blessing,
of care, of understanding.

4.

So the knitter takes care
and casts a prayer through the shawl.
The prayer, is continuous in the act of knitting,
in the breath of the knitter
in the touch of hands
in the management and manipulation
of needles and wool
a garment of God's love emerges.

***Today we are surrounded by prayer shawls
crafted with care by the Prayer Shawl Ministry knitters.
We are thankful for their ministry,
we are blessed by their compassion.
We are privileged and proud to call them ours.***

Poem

Prayer Shawl

Suzanne Underwood Rhodes

The work of a prayer shawl
is to love the weight it holds,
the blue yarns heavy with the ache
of shoulders, of cold like winter rain,
the gray yarns grave as tears. A voice struggles
to rise from the wool, but the cry fails and falls
and the hurt breast is unconsolated.

But the Galilee ladies who gather on Sundays
to knit their prayers into a woman's fear
and hug her prayers into theirs, know
that in the diamond honeycomb stitch,
or the hurdle and purl ridge stitches,
hope turns and casts on the heart's fibers
and the ladies believe, needles flashing

Prayer Shawl Blessing

May God's grace be upon these shawls...
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.

***May these mantles be a safe haven,
a sacred place of security and well-being,
a moment in time sustaining and embracing
befriending ease and difficulty
the simple and the complex.***

***May the ones who receive these shawls
be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace, and wrapped in love.
Blessed Be!***

Anthem

We Are Not Alone
Lynn Featherstone – Mezzo Soprano

Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

We are not alone, God is with us.
We are never alone, for God is with us.
Now, through all our days, always.
Forever and ever, we are never alone.
And God will make us strong, for God is with us.
We will press on, for God is with us.
Now, through all our days, always.
Forever and ever, we are never alone.
Our God is with us now.
(Pepper Choplin)

Introduction to the Offering

Offertory

***Presentation of the Offering**

**God of all, in church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

Prayers of the People

Blanketed with love,
blessed with gifts,
buoyant in the Spirit,
believing that you call us to be your church,

*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.*

***Closing Hymn** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU #375 (refrain, verse 1, refrain, verse 4, refrain)

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

**You moved on the water, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep:
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.**

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captive dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.**

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

***Blessing**

***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.**

This morning's anthem text is reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945. *We Are Not Alone*, © 2005 Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.

Our AGM will begin shortly after today's service.

Please help yourself to a cup of tea or coffee and a bite to eat and make your way back to your seat. If you did not pick up the AGM Agenda and Annual Report, there are copies at the front of the church. Please participate in this important meeting to discuss the life and work of Fairlawn.

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Ode to Fairlawn's Prayer Shawl Ministry



In 2011, our ministry started
With a group of great knitters, our pathway was charted.

Tho' the team was first small, we were well on our way
We've given out hundreds, as of today.

They've gone 'cross the country, and further afield
Even to Europe, much power they yield.

The shawls all convey, a special warm feeling.
They're given for comfort, for love and for healing.

We meet once a month, each works on a shawl
If you'd like to join, please give us a call

We value donations, they keep us all knitting
The shawls aren't for sale, that wouldn't be fitting.

If someone you know, is in need of a prayer
Please take them a shawl, our love with them share.

~ Jan Schlee