



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Pride Sunday**

Sunday, May 31, 2026 10:30am

Guest Speakers:

Lisa DelCol, Toronto PFlag and Riven Thorne, COMET

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver

Eleanor Daley, Director of Music

Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

Guest Pianist: Kate Tremills

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From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

*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

***Processional Hymn Let Us Build a House**

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

*Lighting the Christ Candle

*Introit Clothe Yourselves with Love

E. Daley

Clothe yourselves with love,
which binds us all together in perfect harmony.
(Colossians 3:14)

Unfurling the Rainbow Colours The Acts of John 94-95

Reader: Chris Damaso

[Gathered in the upper room that night, Jesus said:] "Before I am delivered up... let us sing a hymn to the Father, and so go forth to that which lies before us". He bade us therefore make as it were a ring, holding one another's hands, and himself standing in the midst he said: "Answer 'Amen' unto me".

He began, then, to sing a hymn and to say:

"Glory be to thee, Father."

And we, going about in a ring, answered him: "**Amen**".

Glory be to thee, Word: Glory be to thee, Grace. **Amen.**

Glory be to thee, Spirit: Glory be to thee, Holy One:

Glory be to thy glory. **Amen.**

We praise thee, O Father; we give thanks to thee, O Light,
wherein darkness dwelleth not. **Amen.**

The Unfurling Begins

Now wherefore we give thanks, I say:

I would be saved, and I would save. **Amen.**

I would be loosed, and I would loose. **Amen.**

I would be wounded, and I would wound. **Amen.**

I would be born, and I would bear. **Amen.**

I would eat, and I would be eaten. **Amen.**

I would hear, and I would be heard. **Amen.**

I would be thought, being wholly thought. **Amen.**

I would be washed, and I would wash. **Amen.**

4. Grace danceth. I would pipe; dance ye all. **Amen.**
I would mourn: lament ye all. **Amen.**
The number Eight singeth praise with us. **Amen.**
The number Twelve danceth on high. **Amen.**

The Whole on high hath part in our dancing. **Amen.**
Whoso danceth not, knoweth not what cometh to pass. **Amen.**
I would flee, and I would stay. **Amen.**
I would adorn, and I would be adorned. **Amen.**

I would be united, and I would unite. **Amen.**
A house I have not, and I have houses. **Amen.**
A place I have not, and I have places. **Amen.**
A temple I have not, and I have temples. **Amen.**

A lamp am I to thee that beholdest me. **Amen.**
A mirror am I to thee that perceivest me. **Amen.**
A door am I to thee that knockest at me. **Amen.**
A way am I to thee a wayfarer. **Amen.**

Scripture

The Gospel of Mary 4:1b-6:4; 9:30; 10:3-14

Reader: Jill Klaehn

Anthem

The Impossible Dream (from *Man of La Mancha*)
Kevin Doe – soloist
Kate Tremills – Piano

Mitch Leigh (1928-2014)
Arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

To dream the impossible dream,
To fight the unbeatable foe,
To bear with unbearable sorrow,
To run where the brave dare not go.

To right the unrightable wrong,
To love, pure and chaste, from afar,
To try when your arms are too weary,
To reach the unreachable star!

This is my quest,
To follow that star,
No matter how hopeless,
No matter how far,
To fight for the right,
Without question or pause,
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause!

And I know, if I'll only be true,
 To this glorious quest,
 That my heart will lie peaceful and calm,
 When I'm laid to my rest,

And the world will be better for this,
 That one man scorned and covered with scars
 Still strove, with his last ounce of courage,
 To reach the unreachable star!
 (Joe Darion, 1911-2001)

Pride Sunday Conversation Lisa DeSol, Riven Thorne and Kevin Doe

***Hymn** I Have Called You By Your Name

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
 I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
 I will not abandon you;
 all my promises are true.
 You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
 read it written in my people, help them grow.
 Pour the water in my name,
 speak the word your soul can claim,
 offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;
 feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
 Like the woman reaching out,
 choosing faith in spite of doubt,
 hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
 I have given you my spirit as a sign.
 With my wonder in your soul,
 make my wounded children whole;
 go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

Introduction to the Offering

Offertory Duet Somewhere (from *West Side Story*)

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Andrea Ludwig – Mezzo Soprano

Phil Smith – Tenor

There's a place for us,
Somewhere a place for us.
Peace and quiet and open air
wait for us somewhere.

There's a time for us,
Some day a time for us.
Time together with time to spare,

Time to learn, time to care.
Someday, somewhere
We'll find a new way of living,
We'll find a way of forgiving,
Somewhere.

There's a place for us,
A time and place for us.
Hold my hand and we're halfway there.
Hold my hand and I'll take you there,
Somehow, someday, somewhere.
(Stephen Sondheim, 1930-2021)

*Presentation of the Offering

**'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.**

**When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
to turn, turn will be our delight
'till by turning, turning, we come round right.**

Prayers of the People

Remembering Jesus promise to be with us always,
to the end of time

***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** Praise with Joy the World's Creator

VU #312

***Blessing** That you were born
and you will die.

That you will sometimes love enough
and sometimes not....

So you might as well live
***and you might as well love.
You might as well love.
You might as well love.
Amen.***

***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.**

8.

Postlude

Prelude in C Major (BWV 846)
Kate Tremills – Piano

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Following worship, please join us for a special **Halo Gathering** at the back of the Sanctuary to meet and greet our Pride Sunday guests, speak with them personally, and enjoy conversation and learning together as an affirming community of faith.

Sources and Acknowledgements:

Blessing – “The Facts of Life” from *Sorry For Your Troubles* Pádraig Ó Tuama © 2018 Canterbury Press.

A Note on Today’s Readings from Rev. Nigel Weaver

PRIDE takes us beyond the margins. Both of our readings today are from works the Church decided did not belong, had no place, were just plain wrong. Today might be a day to hear them, to let them back in, to imagine that we might possibly entertain them.

The Acts of John (early 2nd century) envisions a Maundy Thursday Upper Room which included a dance – a Jewish hora (a traditional, energetic Jewish circle dance commonly performed at weddings, bar mitzvahs, and other celebrations).

The Gospel of Mary (late 1st early 2nd century) raises questions that are very germane to PRIDE – who’s out, who’s in, who gets to decide, who gets the say? Who has authority within the community? What is the place of those traditionally looked-down upon, considered suspect? How does one find, and be true to, oneself? How do you stay in, be part of, insist on your place in community?

As the next to last sentence of that reading says: “We should announce the good news as the Saviour ordered, and not be laying down any rules or making laws.”

As the colours unfurl let us figuratively dance on this Pride Day. Perhaps the figurative can even become the literal if you and your neighbours feel free to hold one another’s hands, remembering, celebrating that this is a day about love in community.

Guest pianist **Dr. Kathryn Tremills** (please call me Kate!): I’m thrilled to return to Fairlawn Avenue United Church where, led by Eleanor, Giles, Ben and I have been incredibly heartfully supported for many years. Born into a household of 3 older piano-playing siblings and a steady stream of piano students, I asked for piano lessons at age 4. Already competitive, I didn’t want to fall behind when my cousin began her lessons at 3. At 5 I knew I wanted to be a concert pianist. Dozens of festivals

and competitions later I landed at Provincials 6 times before finally making it to Nationals. After an RCM diploma, a degree at the U of Toronto and a second degree at U of Colorado-Boulder I squeezed out one year of a doctoral degree at Eastman in Rochester, thinking I wasn't yet good enough, but slowly dissolving into breakdown. A 2-year escape to Banff brought me back to Toronto to freelance. I'm fortunate to have been accompanist and coach for singers, repetiteur and coach for the COC, accompanist for numerous choirs, partner in various chamber groups, to have performed on many concert series, as soloist with a few orchestras and travelled England, France, Iceland, the US and Canada as a performer and clinician. Somewhere mixed in there I began teaching in the voice area at U of T and Western, and also completed a doctorate in Collaborative Piano. Eventually, a health crisis set me on a healing journey, showing me the way back to authentic music-making with joy on my terms, receiving my 2nd level Reiki, exploration of all kinds of interests from physics to Indigenous healing knowledge and wisdom. And now I'm working with all ages using vibration and frequency through piano, voice, violin, drumming and various other tools/instruments. I'm so happy to be sharing some music with you again today.

Riven Thorne (they/them) is an Honours BA Sociology grad from York University with a wealth of experience in group facilitation and program design. Through previous roles as a peer youth wellness mentor and harm reduction mentor with Lumenus Community Services, Riven has facilitated a wide range of drop-in programming for youth aged 12-25. Riven combines their lived experience with a passion for youth engagement and community involvement. They have been the Program Coordinator for COMET, Fairlawn's after-school drop-in program for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, since January 2026.

Lisa DelCol has been active in support and advocacy for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community since her teenage child came out as transgender in 2015 while they were living in Oklahoma. Lisa's first task was to learn what she needed to properly parent her child, but that had to be done concurrently with advocating to family, friends, doctors, coworkers and anyone else who needed to know. In 2020, she moved back to Canada and settled in Toronto, where she joined Toronto Pflag joining the board of directors in 2022. She is currently the president, and enjoys co-facilitating support meetings and workshops. Lisa has a particular passion for parenting workshops because she still remembers how overwhelmed and isolated she felt in the beginning, before meeting another family of a transgender child. Especially in this age of disinformation and politicization, she wants to connect with parents to reassure them that they can also become advocates for their trans kids, and to share the joy she's experienced from the relationships and connections she's established within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Kevin Doe (he/him) is a professional actor and high school teacher with the Toronto District School Board. He is one of the founding members of the TDSB Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Network and Chair of the Affirm Ministry at Fairlawn Avenue United Church.

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Fairlawn's Affirm Faith Statement

Fairlawn Avenue United Church believes in Jesus' vision of God's kingdom which includes all people. Accordingly, Fairlawn declares our commitment to be fully inclusive, in all aspects of our life and work, of all people of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and gender identities.

Fairlawn holds as our core belief: We are not alone. We are connected to God and each other by love. In that inclusiveness that is founded on love, we also invite to our table all those who may be economically, physically or mentally challenged or who have been discriminated against because of ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, gender or age.

We declare this as we seek to be in the eyes of God and of all people a vibrant, growing and welcoming church community.

Your support and allyship is critical.

Fairlawn Avenue United Church supports programming for queer youth in the North Toronto community. If you wish to support this work, please donate to Fairlawn's Affirm Ministry. Scan the QR code to securely donate online.



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