



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
Sunday, June 21, 2026 10:30am  
Father's Day and National Indigenous Peoples Day**

**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.

### **\*Land Acknowledgement**

*Stand and face the North.*

"Oh, spirits and angels of the North,  
where fierce storms come from.  
Come to us and give us strength and courage.  
Teach us to be strong like the buffalo  
who turns and faces the fierce winds and storms  
head on."

***"Come, spirits and angels of the North."***

*Turn and face the East.*

"Oh, spirits and angels of the East  
where the sun rises every day.  
Bring light into our hearts and minds  
so we may also resurrect every morning,  
acknowledging new life and creativity  
and renewed hope every day."

***"Come, spirits and angels of the East."***

*Turn and face the South.*

"Oh, spirits and angels of the South  
where the sun shines the hottest.  
Bring warmth into our hearts and friendships  
and all our relations.

***"Come, spirits and angels of the South."***

*Turn and face the West.*

"Oh, spirits and angels of the West,  
where the sun sets every night.  
Teach us to be at home in the dark  
and in the silence of the night,  
and teach us to let go and to trust  
as we sink into the unknown  
and await the sun rising tomorrow."

***"Come, spirits and angels of the West."***

*Turn and look Up to Father Sky.*

"Come, spirits and angels from above.  
Teach us to fly high with the eagle  
and so, seek wisdom and perspective in life."

***"Come, spirits and angels from above."***

*Look Down to Mother Earth*

"Come, spirits and angels from below.  
Where all plants find their roots in Mother Earth.  
Teach us to remain grounded and thankful for the Earth,  
our Mother,  
and to treat her with respect."

***"Come, spirits and angels from below."***

*Cross hands on the Heart.*

"Come, spirits and angels from all six directions, into our hearts.  
Gather in our hearts  
and make them full with blood that is red,  
full of energy and flowing with love, gratitude and generosity."

***"Ah Ho. Amen."***

**\*Lighting the Christ Candle**

**\*Opening Hymn** God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie

**God who spread the boundless prairie  
when the ancient oceans died;  
brought to birth tribes and nations  
born in dignity and pride;  
now as one we seek your spirit,  
reaching for your loving hand,  
called by you our great Creator,  
sharing in this sacred land.**

**God who came to us in Jesus,  
 loved us, suffered, died and rose;  
 guide us well and give us wisdom  
 as the pace of knowledge grows.  
 God remind us when you call us  
 to decisions, ways unknown,  
 once for always you have promised  
 that we do not walk alone.**

**God who forms a diverse people,  
 call us to a common task,  
 grace and strength you freely give us  
 when in prayer we humbly ask.  
 Races, genders, you have made us  
 different, yet your great intent  
 joins us in one loving Saviour,  
 sharing Word and Sacrament.**

**God who raised our rolling foothills  
 crowned with mountain peaks beyond;  
 call us now to love and serve you,  
 joyfully will we respond.  
 God whose glory past and present  
 lights us on our future way,  
 now baptize us with your spirit,  
 build tomorrow's church today.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

The circle of love is repeatedly broken  
 because of the sin of exclusion.

We separate circles:

the inner circle and the outer circle,  
 the circle of power and the circle of despair,  
 the circle of privilege and the circle of deprivation.

***Forgive us when we fall short and miss the mark  
 of what You intend for us and for all our relations.***

The circle of love is broken  
 whenever there is alienation,  
 whenever there is misunderstanding,  
 whenever there is insensitivity  
 and a hardening of heart.

***Forgive us when we fall short and miss the mark  
 of what You intend for us and for all our relations.***

The circle of love is broken  
 whenever we cannot see eye to eye,  
 whenever we cannot link hand to hand  
 Whenever we cannot live heart to heart  
 and affirm our differences.

***Forgive us when we fall short and miss the mark  
 of what You intend for us and for all our relations.***

This we ask in your name – Creator, Peace Maker, Sacred Spirit.

***Miigwech. Amen***

### **Introit**

O God, How Manifold are Your Works

E. Daley

O God, how manifold are your works,  
 in wisdom you have made them all;  
 O Lord, my God, you are very great.  
 (from Psalm 104)

### **The Peace**

A Psalm of the Woodland

As a tree in the forest becomes tall reaching for the light,

***May we grow above the shadows of fear and doubt.***

As it gives shelter and shade to its friends of fur and feather,

***So may we help all that are smaller and weaker than ourselves.***

The tree sends down roots deep into the soil  
 that it may be nourished by Mother Earth.

***May we be as firmly grounded in the Peace Maker and his love.***

If a tree falls and decays, it provides nourishment for new plants  
 and gives its place in the sun for others.

***The Peace Maker lived and died and lives again  
 that we might have a place for growth and becoming.***

6. When a tree in the forest is cut down,  
its wood is use for shelter, for tools, and for fuel.

***The Peace Maker taught  
that only when life is surrendered,  
when love is poured out,  
will we know our place in Creation  
and with all Creation be blessed.***

The Presence of the Peace Maker be with you,  
***And also with you.***

## Reading

Philippians 4:4-9 Dancing for Joy and Walking in Peace     Reader: Sandy Giles Byrne

Always dance with joy before our Honored Chief! I will say it again: dance with joy! Let everyone see how kind and thoughtful you are. Our Honored Chief is close at hand. Do not let your hearts be weighed down with anything. Instead, with every step you take, send your voice to the Great Spirit, asking him for the things you need. And in all your prayers *remember to give* him thanks. Then the peace and harmony of the Great Spirit, which goes far beyond our small and weak ways of thinking will watch over your hearts and minds through the Chosen One, Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*).

Last of all, my sacred family members, if anything can be seen as good and honorable, think *deeply* about these things. Things that are true and noble, upright and pure, full of beauty and worthy of respect. Follow the way of life you have seen in me, the things you have learned from me, heard from me, and received from me. Keep walking in the traditions I have passed on to you. Then the Great Spirit of Peace will continue to walk with you on this road.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Anthem

Rise Up, My Love  
Senior Choir Men

E. Daley

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;  
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear upon the earth;  
The time of the singing of birds is come.  
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.  
(Song of Solomon 2: 10b-12a)

## Reflection

**Hymn** Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

## **Introduction to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** O Lord, Support Us

Allen Pote (b. 1945)

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
until the shadows lengthen, and evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.

Then in thy great mercy grant us safe lodging,  
and holy rest, and peace at the last;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
(from the Book of Common Prayer)

## **\*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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Creator, Peace Maker, Sacred Spirit'  
as we approach you in prayer.

***Make us true in our paths***

***Make us true in our minds***

***Make us true in our hearts***

***Make us true in our speech.***

We pray for this congregation  
and for the community which surrounds it.  
We pray for fathers and for their children.  
We pray that they may be loving, gentle,  
patient, kind, confident and sure  
in themselves and in You.  
May they know  
the strength of weakness  
the wisdom of appearing foolish  
the poverty of wealth  
the love of children.

8.

May they know the joy of partnership.  
Help them to partner wisely and well.

Holy One,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for Creation  
and for the world and cultures of human fashioning.  
Great Spirit, we feel you in the buffalo, the moose,  
in summer, with the mist on the lakes,  
and the blue water,  
and in the cry of the loon.  
It is beautiful.  
Help us to walk in that beauty  
as with you we seek and end  
to injustice and poverty,  
to prejudice and greed  
to lack of concern for Mother Earth,  
for other humans, for all our relations.  
Those who have worn out their shoes  
know where to step.  
Help us to follow the footsteps of Jesus,  
the Peace Maker.

Holy One,

***Hear our prayer.***

We remember those who suffer,  
those in special need.  
Creator, after the winter and cold and icy winds  
life again glows  
from the bosom-heart of Mother Earth  
as she throws off dead stalks and worn out limbs  
and new strong saplings arise.  
We ask such new life for those who suffer.  
Sustain them by Your Spirit.  
Strengthen them by Your Presence.

Holy One,

***Hear our prayer.***

Creator, the faces of the past  
 are like leaves that settle on the ground.  
 They make the earth deep and thick and rich,  
 so that new fruit will emerge every summer.  
 We give thanks for the wisdom  
 the elders brought down to us,  
 especially for their teachings  
 about respect for others  
 and care for Mother Earth.  
 We ask that their wisdom  
 may bear fruit in us  
 and the generations to come.

Holy One,

***Hear our prayer.***

Last, not least, we give our thanks.  
 Creator, you saw the world and declared it good.  
 The beauty of the trees,  
 the softness of the air,  
 the fragrance of the grass  
 speaks to us.  
 The summit of the mountain,  
 the thunder of the sky,  
 the rhythm of the sea  
 speaks to us.  
 The faintness of the stars,  
 the freshness of the morning,  
 the dewdrops on the leaves  
 speaks to us.  
 But above all you speak to us  
 in Jesus, our Brother, the Peace Maker,  
 who taught us that we should 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** O God of All the Many Lands

**O God of all the many lands,  
we lift our hearts in prayer,  
for this our land of Canada,  
a country wide and fair;  
for mountain heights and northern lights,  
for prairie, lake and sea,  
for every blessing from your hand  
bestowed so lavishly.**

**We thank you, God, for those whose feet  
first walked upon this land,  
who welcomed strangers to their shores  
with open, generous hand.  
Who made a wampum covenant  
and ate from the same bowl.  
Acknowledging the debt we owe,  
let us say "wela'liq."**

**We thank you for the sacrifice  
of venturers of old,  
who dared to cross uncharted seas,  
whose dreams made others bold;  
for valiant souls and pioneers,  
for all who served their age,  
and left for us who follow on  
a sacred heritage.**

**We thank you that from many lands  
with varied gifts they came,  
to pledge their love and loyalty  
where scarlet maples flame.  
May justice here belong to all,  
and may our nation play  
its rightful role in ushering in  
the peace for which we pray.**

**May we be worthy of our land  
and seek its highest good,  
shaping a noble destiny  
of truest nationhood.  
May this fair land, our Canada,  
your own dominion be,  
your people bless abundantly  
from seas to Arctic sea.**

**\*Blessing**

God is before us.

***God is behind us.***

God is above us.

***God is below us.***

God's words shall come from our mouths

***For we are all God's essence, a sign of God's love.***

All is finished in beauty.

***All is finished in beauty.***

***Miigwech.***

***Miigwech.***

***Miigwech.***

**\*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**

Sources and Credits

Directions Prayer – José Hobday as taught to Matthew Fox

Confession, *The Circle of Love* – Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, from *Christian Native American Women for World Day of Prayer 1981* © Church Women United, 1981 adapted.

Miigwech "Thank You" in Anishinaabemowin, the language of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples.

Peace, *Psalm of the Woodland* – Rupert's Land Indigenous Council adapted.

12.

Scripture – *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*, Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press © 2021 Rain Ministries Inc.

Prayers of the People, *Intercession for the Healing of the Land* – Rupert’s Land Indigenous Council © 2003 (Fathers, section Nigel Weaver © 2026)

Blessing – from the Navajo prayer tradition.

Note on *O God of All the Many Lands*

In *Voices United* this hymn written in 1927 comes right before *O Canada*. In many respects this text of national thanksgiving is of its time. When I viewed in 2017, a glaring gap appeared between the opening verse which celebrates our geography and the lines in the subsequent verse “We thank you for the sacrifice of venturers of old, who dared to cross uncharted seas...”.

I decided to try my hand at bridging that gap and acknowledge more than 10,000 years of indigenous presence and the past six centuries of welcome.

For the words of the intermediary verse (Nigel Weaver © 2021, 2019) I drew on the history and languages of the indigenous people of the two areas of Canada in which I have lived: the Great Lakes – the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Covenant – and Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia – “wela’liq” is the Mi’kmaw word for “Thank You” to a group.

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