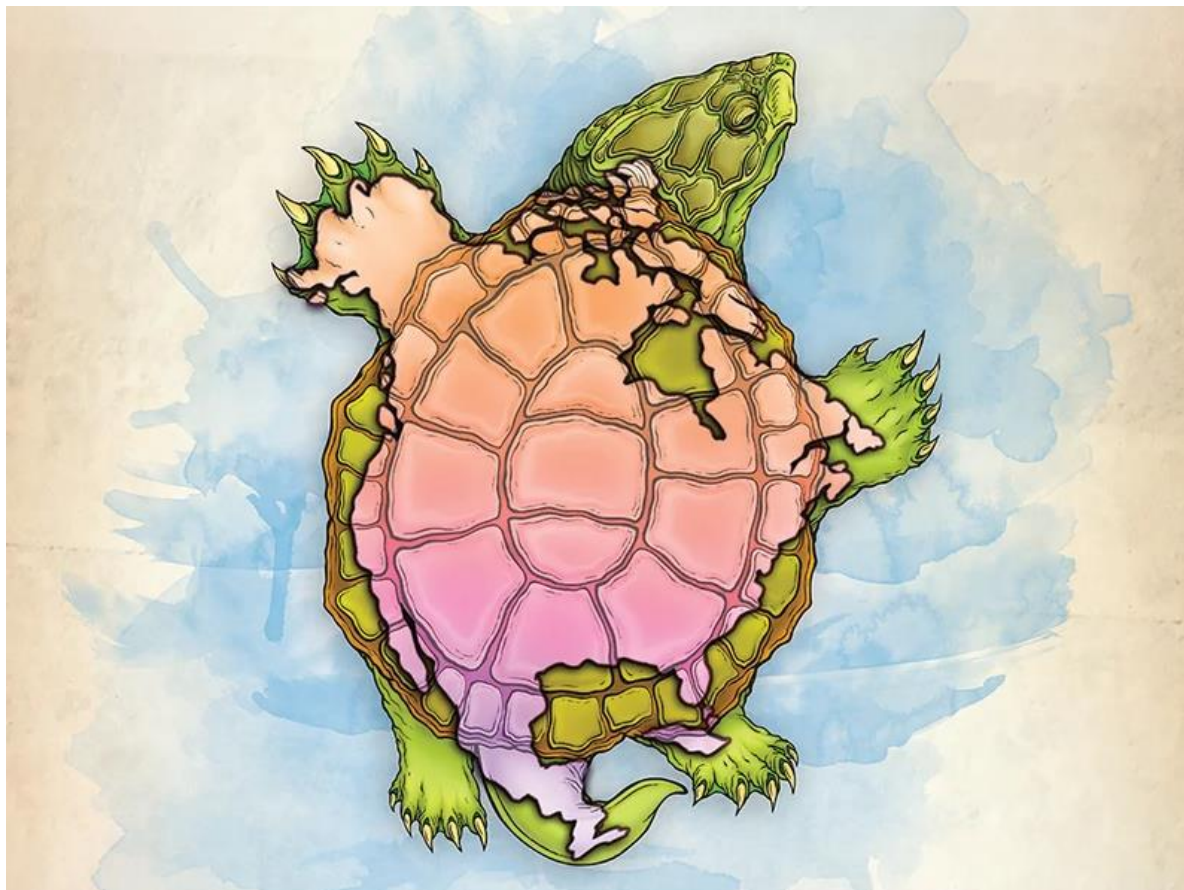




FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:30am
Creation Time III – Orange Shirt Sunday**

**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.

The Community Gathers

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

***Processional Hymn** Before the Earth Had Yet Begun

VU #301

A Litany of Apology and Response

Long before my people journeyed to this land
your people were here,
and you received from your Elders
an understanding of creation
and of the Mystery that surrounds us all
that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured.

***We did not hear you when you shared your vision.
In our zeal to tell you
of the good news of Jesus Christ
we were closed to the value of your spirituality.***

***We confused Western ways and culture
with the depth and breadth and length and height
of the gospel of Christ.
We imposed our civilization
as a condition of accepting the gospel.***

***We tried to make you be like us,
and in so doing
we helped to destroy the vision
that made you who you were.***

***As a result,
you and we are the poorer
and the image of the Creator in us
is twisted, blurred,
and we are not what we are meant
by God to be.***

And so we say
to the First Peoples of the land
and to you, Creator,
source of forgiveness
initiator of reconciliation
spring of renewal
giver of joy.

***Forgive us, and walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ
that our peoples may be blessed
and your creation healed.***

Creator,
***may the words we have spoken
never be symbolic,
empty of meaning and motivation,
may they be words of action and sincerity.***

We observe a period of silence...ending with the Lighting of the Christ Flame

Creator,
***may we respect the Sacred Fire,
Your Spirit-Fire,
which burnt and burns in Native hearts and minds
in culture, in conscience, in custom, in ceremony.***

Creator,
***may we attend to the Sacred Fire that burns within us.
May we work to realize our capacity to live
as you, Creator, intended,
knowing the warmth of kindness,
burning with the heat of a passion for justice,
seeing all things, all people, in the light of love,***

***finding our identity and purpose
in living with respect for Creation,
and in peaceful coexistence with the Native peoples of this land.
They have much to teach us.
We have much to learn.
For their faithful and persistent presence,
we give thanks.***

4.

May it be so. **Amen.**

May it be so. **Amen.**

May it be so. **Amen. Miigwech.**

Introit God Has Entrusted to Us E. Daley

God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.

Now we are ambassadors in the name of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 5:19, 20)

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The Community Listens

Scripture Reading Mark 10:13-16 (The Voice)

Anthem There in God's Garden K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)/E. Daley

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nation;
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Saviour!"
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."

All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Saviour!

(Király Imre von Pécselyi, ca. 1590-1641, para. Erik Routley, 1917-1982)

Sermon "Should Your Children Ask You Tomorrow"
Includes scripture Joshua 4:1-7 (The Hebrew Bible); Mark 9:33-37 (The Voice)

The Community Responds

***Hymn** God Give Us Life VU #704 (verses 1, 2, and 3)

We Believe We believe
 God is Holy Mystery,
 beyond complete knowledge,
 above perfect description.
 Yet, in love, the one eternal God seeks relationship.
 So God creates the universe
 and with it the possibility of being and relating.
 God tends the universe,
 mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.
 God enlivens the universe,
 guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.
 God is creative and self-giving, generously moving
 in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
 Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
 Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator,
 who is both in creation and beyond it.
 All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related.
 All creation is good.
 We find ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
 of living things, diverse and interdependent,
 of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
 of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls.
 In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship
 and discover our place as one strand in the web of life.
 With All our Relations.

Introduction to the Offering

Offertory Anthem The Hidden Stream That Feeds E. Daley

The hidden stream that feeds
 our daily acts of care,
 springs forth in worship when Christ leads
 the church in song and prayer.

*Lord, through our lives may others hear
 your living waters drawing near.*

6.

The stream runs clear and deep,
and tastes of heaven's skies,
and where its ceaseless currents sweep
flows life that never dies. *R*

A heart of stone and dust,
of withered hopes and dreams,
becomes a spring of faith and trust
by drinking from these streams. *R*

We leave this watered place
to work on rocky ground,
yet even there the streams of grace
sustain our daily round. *R*
(Thomas H. Troeger, 1945-2022)

***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

**We turn to you as children turn
to a resourceful and resilient mother,
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.**

The Community Departs to Love and to Serve

***Recessional Hymn** Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

VU #265

***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.**

Postlude

Litany of Apology and Response, words of the 1986 Apology © and Nigel Weaver © 2026

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