



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:30am**

**Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir**

2.

*Indicates when the congregation is to stand, as able.

Congregational responses, singing and readings in unison are indicated in **bold text**.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Words

***Processional Hymn** O God Beyond All Praising

VU #256

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

***Call To Worship**

The world belongs to God.

The earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful

to live together in harmony.

Love and faith come together,

justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,

these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Open your hearts to the light of God's presence.

We will walk in the light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer

Introit

Through All the Changing Scenes of Life

E. Daley

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.
(Tate & Brady, 1696)

Sharing Peace

Anthem

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Melody: Johann R. Able (1625-1673)

Harm: George Herbert Palmer (1846-1926)/Daley

Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
As the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.

Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.
(Tobias Clausnitzer 1663, trans. Catherine Winkworth 1858, alt.)

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart

Between the Devil (Pharaoh) and the Deep Blue (Red) Sea

(Includes the reading of Exodus 14:5-31)

***Hymn**

From the Slave Pens of the Delta

VU #690

**"From the slave pens of the delta,
from the ghettoes on the Nile,
let my people speak their freedom
in the wilderness awhile":
so spoke God from out of Sinai,
so God spoke and it was done,
and a people crossed the waters
toward the rising of the sun.**

**"From the aging shrines and structures,
from the cloister and the aisle,
let my people seek their freedom
in the wilderness awhile":
so the Son of God has spoken,
and the stormclouds are unfurled,
for his people must be scattered
to be servants in the world.**

**When we murmur on the mountains
for the old Egyptian plains,
when we miss our ancient bondage,
and the hope, the promise, wanes,
then the rock shall yield its water
and the manna fall by night,
and with visions of a future
shall we march toward the light.**

**In the maelstrom of the nations,
in the journey into space,
in the clash of generations,
in the hungering for grace,
in our agony and glory,
we are called to newer ways
by the God of our tomorrows
who is God of earth's todays.**

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem O For a World

William Jones (1726-1800)/Daley

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.
(Miriam Therese Winter b. 1938)

*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.**

Living Our Mission

Mary Ellen Richardson, Chair, Governing Council

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

(New Zealand Prayer Book)

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is Heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your Heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
 and come on Earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
 now and forever. Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU #651

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but thou art mighty,
 hold me with thy powerful hand.
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me till I want no more,
 feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
 whence the healing stream doth flow;
 let the fire and cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield,
 be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to thee,
 I will ever give to thee.**

***Blessing**

This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
 We will not offer to God
gifts that cost us nothing.
 Go in peace to love and serve;
we will seek peace and pursue it.

***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

Image credit: *The Crossing of the Red Sea*, painted around 1610 by the Italian late-Mannerist and early-Baroque master Antonio Tempesta (1555–1630).

Welcome Back BBQ & Halo Discussion

Join us after worship for our Welcome Back BBQ as we reconnect after the summer and begin a new season at Fairlawn with family, friends and neighbours!

Due to the weather forecast and out of concern for everyone's comfort and safety, the BBQ will be held in the Assembly Hall. There has been a significant increase in wasp activity on the front lawn, and with food being served, we want to avoid creating an additional nuisance and, most importantly, help ensure no one gets stung.

Enjoy lunch and good company and look for the circle of chairs marked **HALO with Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart**. This is an opportunity to continue the conversation beyond the service. Bring your questions, share your thoughts and insights about the sermon or scripture reading, or simply come and listen. It's one of the many ways we create space at Fairlawn to gather, connect, talk and learn together.

A Big **THANK YOU** to the Basketball Boys on the grill and to Sandy Giles Byrne and her team of wonderful volunteers for all the preparation, hard work and care that made our Welcome Back BBQ possible. We're so grateful for your time, energy and community spirit making it such a special Fairlawn gathering!



Discussion Series Frauds & Scams: What Every Senior Needs to Know



Tuesday, September 15 at 2:00pm

Join us for an engaging free community session with Toronto Police Constable Mark McCabe.

This essential presentation highlights common frauds and scam schemes targeting seniors, and shares practical prevention tips and trusted resources and tools.

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