



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Deep • Bold • Daring
Toward 2035**



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:30am**

**Rev. Rob Metcalf, Presiding
Rev. Jennifer Henry, Guest Speaker
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir**

Post-Service Halo Discussion

Rev. Jennifer Henry – *Executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy
United Church of Canada*

Calin Lau – *Growth and Ministry Development
Shining Waters Regional Council*

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

***Processional Hymn** In Loving Partnership We Come

VU #603

**In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.**

**We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.**

**Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.**

**In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.**

***Gathering Prayer**

***Introit**

Draw Near to God

E. Daley

Draw near to God,
and God will draw near to you.
(James 4:8a)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sharing Peace

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4

(NRSVUE)

Anthem

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you;
 Be not afraid: I have called you by name.
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you;
 When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed;
 You are mine, you are precious in my sight.
 My love for you is everlasting,
 My love for you shall have no end.
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you;
 When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed;
 You are mine, you are precious in my sight.
 (based on Isaiah 43:1-4)

Sermon

Living Into the Promises of God

Rev. Jennifer Henry

***Hymn**

Deep in Our Hearts

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
 deep in our hearts there is a common song;
 deep in our hearts there is a common story,
 telling Creation that we are one.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
 deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
 deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
 justice and peace in harmony.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
 deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
 deep in our hearts there is a common current,
 flowing to freedom like a stream.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
 deep in our hearts there is a common song;
 deep in our hearts there is a common story,
 telling Creation that we are one.**

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem Go Forth into the World in Peace

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the pow'r of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be upon you, and remain with you forever. Amen.
(from the Book of Common Prayer, 1928)

*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 and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father and Mother,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and let us not fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn** Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VU #602

**Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.**

**Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.**

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

Please grab a cup of tea or coffee at Coffee Hour and make your way to the back of the sanctuary to the circle of chairs for a post-service HALO discussion with special guests Rev. Jennifer Henry and Calin Lau. This is an opportunity to continue the conversation beyond the service. Bring your questions or simply come and listen. It's one of the many ways we create space at Fairlawn to gather, connect, talk and learn together.

Rev. Jennifer Henry serves as the Executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy at The United Church of Canada, leading on denominational planning, including the current the whole church strategy--**Toward 2035**. For almost thirty years, she was an ecumenical social justice advocate, including serving as Executive Director of KAIROS between 2012 and 2020. Jennifer holds a Master of Social Work and of Theological Studies from the University of Toronto, a Diploma in Denominational Studies from the Vancouver School of Theology, and an Honorary Doctor of Christian Letters from Lutheran Theological Seminary (Saskatoon).

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