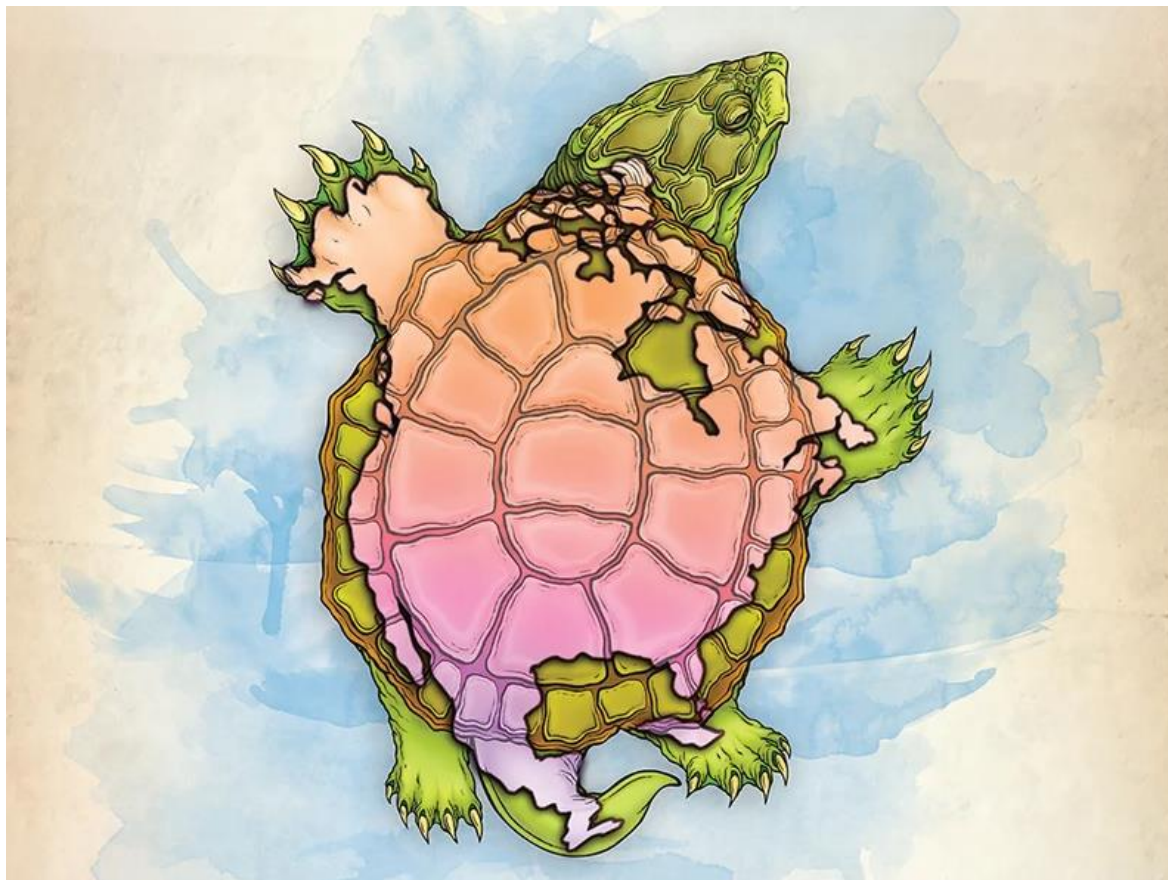




FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, September 6, 2026 10:30am**

**Rev. Nigel Weaver
Piano - Doreen Uren Simmons
Soloist - Meredith Hall
Guitar - Bernard Farley**

2.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Gathering

The Christ Light is lit.

We offer our worship

***as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
and a practice of opening ourselves
to God's still, small voice of comfort,
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.
Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships,
and our world.***

*Hymn

Confession and Peace

We are all touched by brokenness:
the rise of selfish individualism
that erodes human solidarity;
the concentration of wealth and power
without regard for the needs of all;
the toxins of religious and ethnic bigotry;
the degradation of the blessedness of human bodies
and human passions through sexual exploitation;
the delusion of unchecked progress
and limitless growth
that threatens our home, the earth;
the covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity
with empires and systems of domination.

We sing lament and repentance.

A brief period of silence

Yet evil does not—cannot—
undermine or overcome the love of God.

God forgives,

***and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings
with honesty and humility.***

God reconciles,

***and calls us to repent the part we have played
in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.***

God transforms,

***and calls us to protect the vulnerable,
to pray for deliverance from evil,
to work with God for the healing of the world,
that all might have abundant life.
We sing of grace.***

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Solo

Reflection

*Hymn By Request

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.

4.

***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

Offering

***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

In the name of the One who came as servant

We ask for compassion.

In the name of the poor from whom we must learn

We ask for humility.

In the name of the oppressed who have suffered long

We ask for a sense of urgency.

In the name of the Spirit who calls us

We ask for integrity.

Now in our own name, and with our own need, we pray

Prayers spoken aloud or in silence follow...and conclude with

***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.*

***Hymn**

***Blessing**

***Choral Commissioning**

**May God's love surround you, may God's wisdom guide you,
may God's light shine upon you, until we meet again.**

Postlude

While Eleanor Daley, Director of Music takes a well-earned vacation, we enjoy and appreciate having **Doreen Uren Simmons** on piano. Doreen, a native of Ingersoll, studied in Toronto with the renowned Mona Bates and made her professional debut at the Wigmore Hall in London, England in 1961. She spent 40 years in Toronto, working with many choirs and now internationally famous Canadian singers. This period culminated in her position as studio accompanist for the beloved Lois Marshall, during her 12 years of teaching at the University of Toronto. After Lois' death in 1997, Doreen joined the studios of Peter Barnes at the University of Toronto, and Catherine Robbin and Norma Burrowes at York University. She continues her work with Norma still, though threatening a "well earned retirement", and has been attending Fairlawn for many years with her partner and long time Fairlawn member, Jim Benson.

Photo credit: educational poster "Turtle Island" published and distributed by Indigenous Reflections, a Canadian publisher specializing in First Nations educational resources, classroom materials and cultural teaching aids.

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