



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, October 18, 2026 10:30am

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.

Welcome and Words of Acknowledgment

Call to Worship

October is a precious month – a gift:

acorn caps - copper

chrysanthemums - bronze

grain heads - gold

rain glistened concrete – silver and platinum

porch lights and jack'o lanterns – topaz and amber

giant Russian sunflower seeds - onyx and jet

New England asters - sapphires and amethysts

new fallen chestnuts - jaspers and emeralds

lingering apples - bloodstones and garnets

Christ's riches.

***May we, who hunger and thirst
for the beauty of your presence,
recognize it in the world around us.***

***May our pace be leisurely, our senses alert,
may our hearts be full, our spirits be open.***

October is a precious month.

Thank You, God.

***Processional Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth

VU #226 (verses 1, 2 and 3)

*Releasing the Christ Flame

We light this candle in hope,

and release the Christ Flame,

that its light, its warmth, its energy,

may move among us and within us.

***May the Spirit that was on, in, and with Jesus
be on, in, and with us,
this time, this place,
this gathering.***

*Prayer of Confession

October is a forgiving month.

Forgive us when in place of plenty we see scarcity.

***Forgive us when we set a place at the table for some
but not for others.***

Forgive us when we turn 'more than enough' into 'not enough'.

Forgive us when we forget that your love has room for all.

October is a forgiving month, may we be forgiven and forgiving.

*Introit

Eternal Light

E. Daley

Eternal light, shine in our hearts,
eternal hope, lift up our eyes,
eternal pow'r, be our support,
eternal wisdom, make us wise.
(Christopher Idle, b. 1938, used with permission)

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:1-3, 9b-14 and Romans 8:14-15, 26-27

Anthem

Hover O'er Me, Holy Spirit

Rodney Abriol

Hover o'er me, Holy Spirit,
bathe my trembling heart and brow;
fill me with Thy hallowed presence,
come, O come and fill me now.

*Fill me now, fill me now,
Jesus, come and fill me now.
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence,
come, O come and fill me now.*

Cleanse and comfort, bless and save me,
bathe, O bathe my heart and brow,
Thou art comforting and saving,
Thou art sweetly filling now.

4.

*Fill me now, fill me now,
Jesus, come and fill me now.
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence,
come, O come and fill me now.
(Ellwood H. Stokes, 1815-1897)*

Sermon

Looking in All the Wrong Places

Rev. Nigel Weaver

***Hymn**

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

**Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.**

**Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.**

**Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.
(Ruth Duck, 1947-2024)**

Introduction of the Offering

October is a generous month – an invitation:
***to pause and to rest in the deep, dark places,
to know and to name our longings and leanings,
to offer up our praise, our prayer, our thanksgiving,
to dwell secure.
October is a generous month,
may we be a generous people.***

Offertory Anthem Angels of Heaven

arr. Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

The angels of heaven are marching
around the borders of Zion's holy ground;
their music harmonious how it doth ring,
and this is the heavenly song they sing:

*Holy, holy, holiness unto the Lord,
love ye, love ye, love ye one another.*
(Ephraim Frost, 1824-?)

***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 so it is.

***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.***

***Recessional Hymn** Be Thou My Vision

VU #642 (verses 1, 2 and 4)

6.

***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

Sources

October Prayers, Nigel Weaver © 2010, 2020

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