



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, October 25, 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** O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)

VU #238 (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

For All Who are Led

E. Daley

For all who are led by the Spirit of God,

they are the children of God.

(Romans 8:14)

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

Trust in the Lord

Daniel E. Gawthrop (b. 1949)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

and lean not unto your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,

and he shall direct your path.

For in him are all the blessings of heaven,

and from his mouth cometh wisdom.

Seek him and he shall grant you

the sweetest desires of your heart.

Lift your voice to his glory,

lift your hands to his work.

(adapted from scripture by Jane Griner, b. 1950)

Sermon

Finding Ourselves

Rev. Nigel Weaver

***Hymn**

Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

VU #573

(The choir will sing verse 1, and then the congregation is invited to join in for verses 2 and 3.)

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
and only you can teach me how to pray.

**Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
help me to see your purpose and your will,
where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
held in forgiving love, let me be still.**

**Come with the vision and the strength I need
to serve my God, and all humanity;
fulfillment of my life in love outpoured –
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

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 Irish Blessing

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you ever in the palm of his hand.
(Traditional Irish)

***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** As a Fire is Meant for Burning

VU #578

***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



Fairlawn's Next Chapter

**Congregational Meeting:
Financial Information & Discussion**
Sunday, November 1, 2026 11:30am – 12:30pm

Treasurer Steve Dunk and Trustee Tom Salisbury will provide an overview of Fairlawn's financial realities, including an updated 10-year forecast and some insights into the status and management of our investment portfolio.

We will also share a summary of the feedback received from the congregation in September and October and answer any questions.

Hybrid – If unable to attend in-person, join us on Zoom. Login will be shared in *Greetings!* Oct 30'26.

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