



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Covenanting Service for
The Reverend Jean Ward and The Reverend Nigel Weaver
Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Shining Waters Regional Council
Sunday, October 4, 2026 3:00pm**

Preaching: David Hallman, Chair of the Church Council,
Saint Luke's United Church
Presiding: Rev. Eun-Joo Park, Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations Minister,
Shining Waters Regional Council
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

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

Congregational responses indicated in ***bold italics*** and unison in **bold** text.

Pre-Service Music

Acknowledgement of Territory

Tom and Kathy Salisbury, Fairlawn Members

As we gather on this sacred land,
we acknowledge that this
is the Dish with One Spoon Territory
created in Treaty by the Anishinabee, Mississauga and Haudenosaunee,
binding them to share and protect this land.
Subsequent indigenous nations and peoples,
Europeans and all newcomers,
have been invited into this treaty
in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

***May we faithfully fulfill our treaty commitments
to the land and to its people.***

Releasing the Christ Flame¹

Tom and Kathy Salisbury

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 that movement turn us toward change.

***May we have an awareness
responsive to the expressed hopes and fears
of our indigenous members.***

For it is in honouring our many parts, that the body is one.

May we respect their Sacred Fire.

May we respect the Creation.

May we live with them in peaceful co-existence.

Let the words we speak not be empty, or ring hollow.

Let the lives we live be ones of action and sincerity.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart, Voluntary Associate Minister

We joyfully gather to mark a new ministry relationship in Shining Waters regional council between Jean and Nigel and Fairlawn Avenue United Church. We welcome those who are a part of our wider community, both the North Toronto cluster and

Shining Waters Region. In particular Rev. Eun-Joo the Covenant, and David Hallman, who will preach. Eun-Joo is a Shining Waters Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations and Support to Communities of Faith. Before joining Shining Waters, she was in pastoral ministry for 22 years. David worked in the General Council Office for thirty years during the time that Jean was also in a national staff position. He is a long-time member of Saint Luke's United Church where he is currently Chair of the Church Council. His presence and participation today celebrate, and continue the relation between Saint Luke's and Fairlawn who have been a significant supporter of Saint Luke's ministry and Out of the Cold Meal Program. Nigel and Jean have both preached at Saint Luke's as guest ministers. Today we commit to and celebrate how we are the church together.

Call to Worship²

Rev. Dr. Ambury Stuart

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.***

***Proclamation Hymn** God, the All-Holy

VU #484

God's Word Proclaimed

Scripture

Colossians 3:12-17

David Hallman, Chair of the Church Council,
Saint Luke's United Church

Anthem

Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee
Andrea Ludwig – Mezzo Soprano

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Jesus, Lord, we look to Thee;
let us in Thy Name agree;
show Thyself the Prince of Peace,
bid our strife forever cease.

4.

By Thy reconciling love
ev'ry stumbling block remove;
each to each unite, endear;
come and spread Thy banner here.

Make us of one heart and mind,
gentle, peaceable and kind,
lowly, meek in thought and word,
altogether like our Lord.

Let us for each other care,
each the other's burdens bear;
to Thy church the pattern give,
show how true believers live.

Free from anger and from pride;
let us thus in God abide;
all the depths of love express,
all the heights of holiness.

Jesus, Lord, we look to Thee.
(Charles Wesley, 1707-1788)

Meditation

David Hallman

The Covenanting

***Hymn**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

VU #703

The Act of Covenant

Rev. Eun-Joo Park,
Shining Waters Regional Council Liaison and Presider

***Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed**

We are not alone
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

***who has created and is creating
who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Covenanting Action

Statement of Living Faith Story Vicki Stuart, Fairlawn Liaison to Shining Waters Regional Council

Statement of This New Ministry

Rev. Eun-Joo Park

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Jean Ward, Nigel Weaver, Fairlawn Avenue community of faith, and the wider United Church as represented by Shining Waters regional council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

Presentation of Covenanting Clergy

Amanda Hancox, Member of Fairlawn Search Committee

Amanda: After prayerful discernment, after consultation with Shining Waters Regional Council, and with the approval of Fairlawn Avenue community of faith, we present Jean Ward, who has been appointed to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care and Nigel Weaver, who has been appointed to a ministry of word, sacrament, and faith development. We believe that their skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.

Presider: Jean and Nigel, you are here in response to the request of Fairlawn Avenue United Church community of faith and by appointment of Shining Waters Regional Council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry.

Jean, you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care and you, Nigel, are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and faith development in this place.

You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join Jean and Nigel in worship, study, prayer, and action.

We, Shining Waters regional council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry.

Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

Prayer of Faith and Reliance³

Rev. Eun-Joo Park

God of all,
remember us when we risk welcoming the stranger,
when in language, hospitality, evangelism and service,
we employ imagination rather than rules
that we might be encouraged and surprised by joy.

God, remember your Church, and this community of faith.

Should we become introverted,
suspicious of the stranger,
obsessed with dead rather than with living stones,
suffocated by tradition, remember us.

God, remember your Church, and this community of faith.

Remember us,
that we might be renewed by the power of your Holy Spirit,
together embracing the future that is yours and ours
with a ready faith and a willing grace.

God, remember your Church, and this community of faith.

May we be a place, and a people,
***where faith is nurtured, hearts are comforted,
and gifts shared for the good of all.***

May we be a place, and a people,
***offering resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
and fierce love in the face of violence.***

May we be a place, and a people,
where human dignity is defended.

May we be members of a community

***held and inspired by You,
corrected and comforted,
instruments of the loving Spirit of Christ,
creation's mending. Amen.***

Promises of the New Ministers

Presider: Jean and Nigel, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with Fairlawn Avenue United Church?

Jean: I do.

Nigel: I do.

Presider: Will you accept the guidance of Shining Waters regional council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of N community of faith?

Jean: I will.

Nigel: I will.

Presider: Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

Jean: I will.

Nigel: I will.

Presider: Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

Jean: I will.

Nigel: I will.

Presider: Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

Jean: I will.

Nigel: I will.

Promises of the Community of Faith

Presider: Will you join with Jean and Nigel in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within Fairlawn Avenue Community of Faith, Shining Waters regional Council and within the wider church?

Fairlawn: ***We will.***

Presider: Will you support them as they serve among you in this ministry?

Fairlawn: ***We will.***

8.

Promises of the Staff Team

Presider: Jean and Nigel do not serve alone. I ask, Eleanor, Joanne, and XinLi to come and join them.

Presider: Separately and together, you are Fairlawn's paid accountable staff. How will you conduct yourselves to accomplish your responsibilities to the congregation and to each other?

Staff Team: We will live by Fairlawn's Guiding Principles. As such we make the following commitments to the congregation and to each other:

We will care for each other with kindness.

We will encourage dialogue by listening to learn and speaking to foster relationships.

We will value and support the richness that comes with our differences.

We will work together collaboratively to find creative solutions.

We will support each other in times of change and transition

Promises of Regional Council, Wider Church and Community

Members of the wider church and community come forward [this could include community partners, members of other faith traditions, United Church of Canada members, affiliated partners, as well as members of any other United Church body].

Presider: Will you, as members of Shining Waters Regional Council, the United Church and members of the wider community, join with Jean and Nigel and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

Guests: ***We will.***

Presider: Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

Guests: ***We will.***

Ministers' Investiture

Presider: Jean and Nigel do you bring anything with you to mark this new ministry?

Jean and Nigel: Yes, we do. We have each commissioned and purchased a new stole. When the time comes for us to leave Fairlawn the stoles will come with us; but, each and every time we put them on they will remind us of our time and ministry with these people in this place.

We have asked Susie Henderson, who worked together with Jean at the Regional office, and who made the stoles for us to place them on us. We would ask you to consecrate them for us.

Presider: Jean, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Nigel, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Response to Covenant Sharing the Peace of Christ

Presider: Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.
We are one in Christ! We are one with Christ!

Christ's peace, be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering The offering received today out of our gladness and gratitude will be given to the Out of the Cold Program at Saint Luke's United Church

Offertory Anthem O Be Joyful in the Lord

E. Daley

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands,
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God,
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise.
Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
(Psalm 100)

***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.**

Prayer of Dedication⁴

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver

Out of love and duty,
faithful women brought perfume and ointment
to a garden tomb.

***Intending to preserve the dead,
they found new life, instead.***

Now, out of love and duty,
we bring our gifts.

May they bring life to us and to others. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver

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 to us
we ask for integrity.

Now, in our own name, and out of our own need, we pray...

Prayers spoken aloud or in silence follow —

With things as they are,
with us as we are,
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 forever. Amen.*

Expressions of Gratitude

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver

***Recessional Hymn** Through the Heart of Every City

VU #584

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver

Postlude

¹Nigel Weaver © 2026

²A Song of Faith © 2016

³Source unknown

⁴Nigel Weaver © 2010

*Please remain after the service and join us in the
West Transept for coffee, tea and sweet desserts.*

*Our sincere thanks to all who shared their gifts and
intentions today with our Community of Faith, and
all of you who came to be a part of our celebration.*



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