FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Detail, The Hidden Treasure, James Tissot, Brooklyn Museum

Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, November 15, 2026 10:30am
Twenty-fifth After Pentecost
Fairlawn's Next Chapter

Rev. Jean Ward and Rev. Nigel Weaver
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**.**
Screen: Congregational responses, unison and singing in white text.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Call to Worship

The colours of October have faded and lie fallen
though somehow, here and there, still
roses linger
long past their season,
November has dressed itself
in sober, sombre garb
grey and black, shadow and shade,
the ashy cinders of Autumn's burnt-out blaze.

And we have stood silent
and honoured our dead
the saints and those who served
and donned our poppies
for a splash of colour
and have removed them
gone, but not forgotten.

And now we find ourselves
midway through the month
on a Sunday that has neither name
nor stated purpose
while the sun sets
earlier and earlier
and the darkness deepens.

Far off, yet near at hand,
the starlight and the stable
the table and tableau
await
and we with them.

For though the ponderous
and heavy weight of winter
begins its descent
intent on settling
like a mantle on our shoulders
even so,
waiting and weighed down,
we lift our hearts
in worship.

***Processional Hymn** God, Whose Love Is Reigning O'er Us VU #399 (verses 1, 2 and 5)

***Releasing the Christ Flame** (from Psalm 123)

To You I have raised up my eyes
You who reside in the rafters of heaven.
So are our eyes toward Adonai our God,
that the Holy One might show us grace.
Show us grace, Adonai, Show us grace!
We have had more than our fill
of the scorn of the careless ones,
the contempt of the proud, oppressive ones.

Introit Lo, I Am With You Always E. Daley

Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always,
to the close of the age."
(Matthew 28:20)

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Scripture Reading I Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30

Anthem Arms Opened Wide Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Arms opened wide to the needs of the neighbour;
eyes opened wide by the wonders of God's will;
daring to venture on pathways uncharted,
we move in faith that our God is speaking still.

4.

Doors opened wide as a bold sign of welcome;
minds opened wide to the meaning of God's call:
"No longer alien or stranger or outcast –
my holy house is a house of prayer for all."

Hopes opened wide toward the light of the future,
hearts opened wide by the blessings of our past,
we pledge our lives to God's promise unfolding:
that love and justice shall fill the earth at last!
(Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953)

Sermon Talented – the burden and the blessing. Rev. Nigel Weaver

***Hymn** There's a Spirit in the Air VU #582 (verses 1, 3, 5 and 6)

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem O Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me, and Known Me Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising,
thou understandest my thought afar off.
Thou compassest my path and my lying down,
and art acquainted with all my ways.
If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
even there shall thy hand lead me,
and thy right hand shall hold me.
(Psalm 139: 1-3, 9, 10)

***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** You Call Us Out VU #569 (verses 1, 3 and 4)

***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

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The Senior Choir of Fairlawn Avenue
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
presents
Gloria
by Mary McDonald
with
Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, November 29 at 10:30am
28 Fairlawn Avenue
www.fairlawnchurch.ca