



Fairlawn Avenue United Church Sunday, June 23, 2024 Worship Service 10:30am

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
"Who Is This Guy?"
Rev. Jean Ward
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

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

Congregational responses, singing and readings in unison are indicated in bold text.

Welcome and Acknowledgement

*Processional Hymn There's A Spirit in the Air

VU #582 (verses 1, 4 and 6)

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere: "Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right: God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

May the spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways. God in Christ has come to stay, live tomorrow's life today.

Confession

The Installation of Ambassadors, from 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

You are ambassadors for Christ

As we represent him,

we choose to live in grace.

When invited us to be representatives, The Holy One said "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

Now is the acceptable time.

We pledge to put no obstacle in anyone's way, all we will do, is be people others can trust.

Your credentials are hard won. In your service you have known great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger;

You have been tested, tempered, purified. Your other credentials are knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God;

We represent.

You are not armed for conflict in this world, nor is your remit perfection.

Our remit includes honour and dishonour ill repute and good repute.
We have been called imposters, charlatans, Yet live lives of integrity,
We are unknown, well known,
mortal and fallible
sorrowful serious and joyous
possessing nothing and enjoying everything.

As you represent the Christ, are ambassadors, have wide open hearts to the promptings of the Spirit and wide open arms to embrace others.

You are ambassadors for Christ

As we represent him, we choose to live in grace.

Introit For Everything There is a Season

E. Daley

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Scripture

Mark 4:35-41

New Revised Standard Version

On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said [to his disciples],

"Let us go across to the other side."

And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him,

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Anthem

The Meditations of My Heart

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord. O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength, O Lord my God and my Redeemer. (based on Psalm 19:14)

Reflection

Who is This Guy?

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Unison Confession[1]

The worst storms, Jesus, are the ones caused by our fear, when we grow afraid of losing our power, or we grow suspicious of the power of others, when we refuse to acknowledge your mysterious authority;

Yet, it's in the storm that we find our capacity to love. In releasing our weak claim to power and opening to your reign, we discover a new way of seeing ourselves – as called and useful and beloved – and the other, whoever they may be – as dignified and precious and beloved.

Here in the storm, Jesus, we need you, and we need each other, and the love you give us to share, leads us through sacrifice and self-giving to peace and calm, if only we will loose our hold on fear.

The Light of the Christ Candle and Passing the Peace

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem We Are Not Alone

Andrea Ludwig - Mezzo Soprano

Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

We are not alone, God is with us.
We are never alone, for God is with us.
Now, through all our days, always.
Forever and ever, we are never alone.
And God will make us strong, for God is with us.
We will press on, for God is with us.
Now, through all our days, always.
Forever and ever, we are never alone.
Our God is with us now.
(Pepper Choplin)

*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.

*Recessional Hymn | Feel the Winds of God

VU #625

I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift, though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift; if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use, I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain, regretful tears, until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years; if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be, O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put out to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown, lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone. Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift. I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

*Sending Out[2]

Source, essence, and aim of all things, spirit that enlivens all beings.

We follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself and shared a way for others to find God in themselves.

He was born through love, He lived for love, He suffered for love, He died for love.

But love never dies.

That we may be compassionate to all beings, that we may live and serve in community with others, that we may ask for and offer forgiveness, that we may praise and enjoy God forever, We give ourselves to love.

*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

This morning's offertory anthem text is reprinted under onelicense.net #A-717945. *We Are Not Alone*, © 2005 Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.

[1] John van der Laar, adapted, with permission

[2] Jim Burklo, adapted, with permission

Minister – Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts cameron@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Associate Minister – Rev. Jean Ward jean@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Director of Music – Eleanor Daley eleanor@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Administrator – Joanne Christie joanne@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Bookkeeper – Heather de la Rua heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca

Maintenance Services – Salto Grande Jimena Noquiera, Flor Gutierrez

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Please make your way down to the Assembly Hall after service as we gather to celebrate Rev. Jean Ward as her time at Fairlawn comes to an end.



Take some time to write your thoughts on a card and drop it into the Memory Box for Jean. Cards and pens are available on a table in the Assembly Hall.

Thank you to Sandy Giles Byrne and her team of volunteers for organizing this special event for a special person!