



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, September 8, 2024
Communion Worship Service 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

2.

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

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

Welcome[1] As we enter into this sacred place,
put away
the pressures of the world that ask us
to perform,
to take up masks,
to put on brave fronts.

Silence the voices that ask you to be perfect.
This is a community of compassion and welcoming.

We bring all that we are and all that we yet can be,
to this safe and holy place.

Sing out happiness upon the morning.
Celebrate the famous sun and the comely earth.
Think upon love, that it may grow within us,
and compassion, that it may call us to its service.

Unison Acknowledgement of the Earth[2]

***We recognise and give thanks
that we humans
are creatures of the Earth
living in the ecosystem
—flowers, trees and insects;
land, waters and mountain range—
that is unique to Canada
yet not so different from anywhere else.
May we honour this land
one another
and honour life itself
by our care for all life.***

Acknowledgement of the Land and Her People

***Processional Hymn** Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

**Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.**

**Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
let waters fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.**

**Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.**

**In-dwelling God, your gospel claims
one fam'ly with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.**

***Call to Worship**

May God be with you!

And also with you!

The world belongs to the Creator.

The earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful

to live together in harmony

Love and faith come together,

justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent

these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O Holy One.

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

4.

***Introit**

Blessèd Be the Name of the Lord

E. Daley

Blessèd be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised!
(Psalm 113:2, 3)

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, maker of all,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Christ, servant of the poor,
have mercy on us.
Holy Spirit, breath of life
have mercy on us.
Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.
[Silence]

Sung Response Kyrie Eleison (choir only)

E. Daley

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
(*Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.*)

Prayer for God's Help

Move among us, O God; give us life;
let your people rejoice in you.
Make our hearts clean within us;
renew us in mind and in spirit.
Give us again the joy of your help;
with your spirit of freedom sustain us.

Affirmation

With the whole church;
we affirm
that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere;

we affirm

***God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.***

With all creation;

we celebrate

***the miracle and wonder of life;
the unfolding purposes of god,
forever at work in ourselves and the world .***

Sung Response

(The choir will sing through once, and then the congregation is invited to join in.)

**“Behold, behold, I make all things new,
beginning with you
and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
My promise is true,
for I am Christ the way.**

(John L. Bell, b. 1949)

Scripture

John 1:1-14

Common English Bible

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

6.

The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.

The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.

The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.

But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.

The Word became flesh
and made dwelt among us.

We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a parents only child,
full of grace and truth.

Anthem

O Source of All

Brian Tate

O Source of all, You shine Your light within,
And then surround
with Holy silence, primal sound.
You breathe life into our being,
You touch our hearts with Your love.
We awaken and we rise.

May we walk in peace united.
May we live in love enlightened
And know that we are one.

Grant us the bread of life.
Help us to understand.
Let your forgiveness pass
From hand to loving hand.

Free us from thoughts that bind.
 Remind us who we are,
 A part of earth and sea,
 Of sky and shining star.

A single note becomes a song.
 A spark of light becomes a flame.
 Your sacred promise is renewed,
 Your cosmic cycle comes again, and again.

O Source of all, help us to grow.
 May it be so.
 May it be so.
 (Brian Tate – inspired by
 “Reflections of the Original Meaning of Jesus’ Words”
 by Neil Klotz)

Reflection The Word of the Day is 'Dwell'

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

The Passing of the Peace

The Sacrament of Communion ~ Welcome to the Table ~ The Elements of Commensality

Communion Anthem As We Gather at Your Table

E. Daley

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
 help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
 teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
 send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
 may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.
 (Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944)

8.

Introduction of Offering

Offertory

***Presentation of 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 The Lord's Prayer^[3]

**Our mother,
which art the earth,
Nurturing are thy ways.
Thy web of life be woven
Thy way be found within,
As it is all around.**

**Thank you this day for our daily bread and sweat
and forgive us our misuse of you,
as we forgive others their misuse of us.
And lead us not into exploitation,
But deliver us
From lording it over you,
And over each other,
And over all our other fellow creatures.**

**For thine are the waters of life,
The hills, valleys and plains of home,
The breeding, seeding, feeding ground,
For now, and for as close to forever
As we will ever come.**

**Ah, woman!
Our Father, Mother,**

who are in the world and surpass the world,
 Blessed be your presence,
 in us, in animals and flowers,
 in still air and wind.

May justice and peace dwell among us,
 as you come to us.
 Your will be our will;
 You will that we be sisters and brothers,
 as bread is bread, water is itself,
 For our hunger, for quenching of thirst.
 Forgive us.

We walk crookedly in the world,
 are perverse, and fail of our promise.
 But we would be human,
 if only you consent to stir up our hearts.
 Amen.

***Recessional Hymn** All Praise to You

VU #297

All praise to you, O God of all creation:
 you made the world, and it is yours alone.
 The planet earth you spun in its location
 amid the stars adorning heaven's dome.
 We lease the earth but for a life's duration,
 yet for this life it is our cherished land.

With wondrous grace you clothed the earth in splendour;
 with teeming life you filled the sea and land.
 Instill in us a sense of awe and wonder
 when we behold the bounty of your hand.
 Then when we hear the voice of bird or thunder,
 we hear the voice our faith can understand.

To tend the earth is our entrusted duty,
 for earth is ours to use and not abuse.
 O gracious God, true source of all resources,
 forgive our greed that wields destruction's sword.
 Then let us serve as wise and faithful stewards
 while earth gives glory to creation's Lord.

10.

***Sending Out**

Take, take off your shoes,
you're standing on holy ground;
take, take off your shoes,
you're standing on holy ground.

Well, the earth is the Holy One's and the fullness thereof
from the waters beneath to the heavens above,
so "Take, take, take off your shoes,"
Says the Holy One
"you're standing on my holy ground,
you're standing on my holy ground."

***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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[1] E. A. Hewitt, and Kenneth Patton, adapted, with permission

[2] Rex A. E. Hunt, adapted, with permission

[3] EARTH DANCE based on the Lord's Prayer published in Minnesota Women's Press, December 1999 Author thought to be Karen Loveland, as member of Unity Church, Santa Rosa, CA.

[4] James K. Manlev, adapted, with permission



**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church**
28 Fairlawn Avenue
Toronto, ON M5M 1S7
T: 416-481-6848



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