



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, November 3, 2024
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 and Acknowledgement

*Call To Worship[1]

Let there be joy in our coming together this morning.

Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.

Let the voice of the Spirit of God be heard in our midst.

Let there be joy in our coming together.

*Processional Hymn Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

VU #378

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.**

**I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.**

**Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!**

**Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar and your love the flame.**

*Thanksgiving[2]

Through this celebration and worship,
we leave for a time the daily sequence of events,
to examine life in its eternal dimensions and consequences:

***asking questions about our values
our directions
our goals, and
our relationships.***

Praise be for this gathered community
in this sacred place.

***It is good to be alive!
To share life with each other
in this wonder-filled and evolving universe.
We are most grateful.
May the wisdom of the Spirit dawn in us
so we may see all things in clarity.***

***Introit**

Love the Lord

E. Daley

Love the Lord with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
with all your strength.
(Mark 12:30)

Scripture

Mark 12:28-34

New Revised Standard Version

One of the scribes came near and heard religious experts disputing with Jesus, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him,

“Which commandment is the first of all?”

Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

4.

Anthem

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Robert Lau (b. 1943)

From all that dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends thy word.
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Your lofty themes, ye mortals, bring,
in songs of praise divinely sing;
the great salvation long proclaim,
and shout for joy the Saviour's name.

In every land begin the song;
to every land the strains belong;
in cheerful sounds all voices raise,
and fill the world with loudest praise. Amen.
(Verses 1 & 2: Isaac Watts, 1719, verses 3 & 4, anon. ca. 1781)

Reflection

Not So Far Away

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

Passing of the Peace

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem As Water to the Thirsty

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness, as truth instead of lies,
as song time and springtime and summertime to be,
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamour, like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea,
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of grey,
 as freedom after bondage, as sunrise to the day,
 as home to the traveller and all we long to see,
 so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.
 (Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926)

***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]

**Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,
 farther from us than the most distant star,
 you are beyond naming.**

**May your powerful presence become obvious
 not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
 but also in the seemingly base and common processes
 of the earth.**

**Give us what we need, day by day,
 to keep body and soul together,
 because clever as you have made us,
 we still owe our existence to you.
 We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
 we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,
 putting hate and bitterness behind us.**

**We are torn between our faith in your goodness
 and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
 so deliver us from the temptation to despair.**

**Yours alone is the universe
 and all its majesty and beauty.**

**Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

**Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

**Or if on joyful wing clearing the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

***Sending Out**

Go in faith to ponder in your hearts
the mystery and the wonder of this life.
Go in peace.

***To each other we say,
live simply, at home in yourself.
Be just in your word, just in deed.
Remember the depth of your own compassion.***

Do not forget your power
in the days of your powerlessness.
Do not desire to be wealthier than your peers,
and never stint your hand of charity.
Practice forbearance in all you do.
Speak the truth or speak not.
Take care of your body,
be good to it, it is a good gift.
Crave peace for all peoples in this world,
beginning with yourselves,

***We go with the dream of that peace
set firm in our hearts.***

***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] Carl Seaburg, adapted, with permission
- [2] Rex A. E. Hunt, adapted, with permission
- [3] Progressive Christianity, with permission
- [4] Michael Belletini, adapted, with permission

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Fairlawn. Thank you.



The Senior Choir of Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
presents the Ontario premiere of

Magnificat

by Taylor Scott Davis
with chamber orchestra



Sunday, December 1 at 10:30 am



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