



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, October 13, 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 and Acknowledgements

***Call To Worship**[1]

The creator of life
and the giver of life
is in our midst

***Life in all its fullness is God's offer to all.
So let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.***

***Processional Hymn** Praise God for the Harvest

VU #517

**Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,
praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,
the patience of science, the power of machine.**

**Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,
from market and harbor, the sea and the shore:
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.**

**Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,
then sifted, and smelted, and shaped, and refined;
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,
praise God, who in love has provided them all.**

**Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,
the urge to discover, create, and fulfil:
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.**

**Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love
from leaders and peoples, who struggle and serve
for fairness and kindness, that all may be led
in freedom and safety, and all may be fed.**

***Gathering Prayer[2]**

Today we give thanks
for the abundance of life on this earth.

Through this earth we and all creatures may be nourished.

In each moment of this day resides incredible power:
new life,
healing,
opportunity.

***May this time together empower us to take some new steps
so all our living is transforming and the
yearning of our hearts become reality.***

***Introit** Sing to the Lord With Thanksgiving

E. Daley

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving,
O praise ye the Lord!
(from Psalm 147)

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

Common English Bible

As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. You know the commandments: *Don't commit murder. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. Don't give false testimony. Don't cheat. Honor your father and mother.*"

"Teacher," he responded, "I've kept all of these things since I was a boy."

Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, "You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me." But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, "It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God's kingdom!" His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, "Children, it's difficult to enter God's kingdom! It's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

4.

They were shocked even more and said to each other, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them carefully and said, "It's impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God."

Peter said to him, "Look, we've left everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "I assure you that anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life. But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first."

Anthem Praise to God, Immortal Praise Henry Clark

Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days;
bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ.

For the blessings of the fields, for the stores the garden yields,
flocks that whiten all the plain, yellow sheaves of ripened grain.

All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from her rich o'erflowing stores.

These to thee, O God, we owe, source from whence our blessings flow;
and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise,
praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days.
(Anna L. Barbauld, 1743-1825)

Reflection The Good China Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

The Passing of the Peace

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

Communion Anthem Gift of Life Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

God blessed the earth, and with one hand
created oceans, sky and sand.
The gift of life made creatures stir,
and nature's sounds on earth were heard.

*O gift of life, and gift of bread,
by God our hearts and souls are fed.
Our voices raise in joyous praise!
Our God is evermore.*

The forest whispers with God's voice;
with songs of praise, we all rejoice.
God's love is in our harvest earth,
each sunrise is a hymn of birth. *R.*

We stand together, old and young,
one soul, one faith, one heart, one tongue.
In holy strength we'll find the worth
to cherish all God's gifts on earth.
Sing praise to God! Our voices raise
in joyous praise! Our God is evermore!
(Niel Lorenz)

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]

**Loving Creator
we honour you,
and we honour all that you have made.
Renew the whole world
in the image of your love.**

**Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.**

**Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call in this moment.**

**For your love is the only power,
the only home, the only honour we need,
in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn** Give Thanks, My Soul, for Harvest

VU #522

**Give thanks, my soul, for harvest, for store of fruit and grain;
but know the owner gives so that we may share again.
Where people suffer hunger, or little children cry,
with gifts from God's rich bounty may thankfulness reply.**

**Give thanks, my soul, for riches of woodland, mine, and hill;
but know that gold and timber are the Creator's still.
God lends to us, as stewards, abundance we might share,
and thus provide earth's children the blessing of God's care.**

**Give thanks, my soul, for labours, that strength and days employ,
but know the Maker's purpose brings toil as well as joy.
Show forth, O God, your purpose; direct our will and hand
to share your love and bounty with all in every land.**

***Sending Out** The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving[4]

May the God of eternal life be with you.

And also with you.

In confidence, we drew close to the Table of Jesus.
We brought our hearts, our lives to the Feast of Grace.
We sang glad songs to the One whose goodness fills our lives.
We rejoice that we inhabit the household of love and hope.

God of unparalleled imagination.

***Your Word crafted the living and active -
your Spirit breathed into us laughter,
as the bright morning stars were reflected
in clear pools brimming with hope.***

All these gifts were given to those shaped in your image,

***but we chose to contend with you,
mocking you, making faces at your glory.
When it became too hard for us
to enter your kingdom on our own,
you sent Jesus among us,
to deliver us from ourselves.***

So, with those who raise their questions to you,
with those who struggle with your answers,
we lift our voices to you, singing your praises:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of mystery and hope.
All creation honors your name.
Hosanna in the highest!

***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] Rex A. E. Hunt, with permission

[2] Ibid

[3] Sarah Dylan Breuer, with permission

[4] Thomas Shuman, adapted, with permission

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Wishing you, your family and friends
a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office will be closed on
Monday, October 14.

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