



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Special Music Sunday ~ Advent I
Sunday, December 1, 2024 10:30am**

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts, Presiding
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir and Guests**

***Magnificat*
by Taylor Scott Davis**

2.

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

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

Welcome

***Processional Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU #1 (verses 1, 5, 6 and 7)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high.
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

***Gathering Prayer** [1]

What seeds have You planted in us,
Unasked, uncompromised, unseen?

***Who are we to carry hope,
For our bodies to be where the Holy is Guest?***

Why would you risk trusting us,

In this place and time,

Risk trusting us to care for a world in perpetual transition?

What do we embody for you,

In our normalcy and strangeness, outside of what people want to expect?

We embody fear,

The fear of the women in our midst,

Whose intimate partners do them harm

The fear of those living with HIV/AIDS

Whose bodies threaten to betray them every day

The fear of abandonment in the children in our midst

Who yearn for an adult to trust.

While we embody hope and fear

Embrace us,

And teach us to embrace others

The way any new parent holds their child.

Amen.

***Introit**

O Wisdom

E. Daley

O Wisdom, O Leader, come,

O Root of Jesse's stem, come,

O Key of David, come,

O Radiant Dawn,

O King of all nations,

O Emmanuel, we wait for you.

(from the Latin "O" Antiphons for Advent,

trans. John Mason Neale [1818-1866],

adapted, E. D.)

Advent Candle – Hope

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt.

Reading

Giles Tomkins, Kate Tremills and Ben Tomkins

It's an old story,
 a family packing their belongings in the night
 insisting their children say good-bye to their cousins and friends they may
 never see again.
 It's an old story,
 whether it's about Jesus
 or Sudanese refugees
 or gwich'in families moving their children away from the grasp of so-called
 Residential Schools.
 We speak of Jesus and Joseph and Mary
 as the Holy Family, the uprooted family.
 All families are holy, unique, cherished by the Creator.
 We light a candle of hope this day for all families who must journey somewhere
 else in search of a new life.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Lighting of the first purple candle in the Advent Wreath – Hope

Reading

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came (excerpt)

Reader: Morrey Ewing

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
 his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
 "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
 most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
 all generations laud and honour thee,
 thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
 most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
 "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
 "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
 (Basque Carol – translated and paraphrased:
 Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924)

***Hymn**

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

VU #14

**To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
 "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news,
 good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.**

**"For you are highly favoured by God the Lord of all,
 who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
 you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"**

**But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.
 What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
 to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.**

**"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 His name shall be called Jesus, God's off-spring from on high.
 And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."**

**"How shall this be" said Mary, "that I should be with child?"
 The angel answered quickly, "the power of the Most High
 will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."**

**As Mary heard the angel she wondered at his words.
 "Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.
 "So be it; I am ready according to your word."**

Magnificat

Taylor Scott Davis (b. 1980)

(Please see insert for text, translation, choristers and instrumentalists.)

***Hymn**

Mary, Woman of the Promise

VU #16

**Mary, woman of the promise,
 bearer of your people's dreams,
 through your open, willing spirit
 waters of God's goodness streamed.**

**Mary, song of holy wisdom,
 sung before the world began,
 faithful to the Word within,
 you carried out God's wondrous plan.**

6.

**Mary, morning star of justice,
mirror of the Radiant Light,
in the shadows of life's journey,
be a beacon for our sight.**

**Mary, model of compassion,
wounded by your offspring's pain,
when our hearts are torn by sorrow,
teach us how to love again.**

**Mary, woman of the Gospel,
precious home for treasured seed,
help us to be true disciples,
bearing fruit in word and deed.**

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem Ave Rosa Sine Spinis

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

Ave rosa sine spinis, stella maris.
Tu illustraris luce clara deitatis, praefulges cunctis datis.
Vas divinae bonitatis et totitus pietatis.
Verbo in te carne facta, dulce vas amoris.

*(Hail, rose without thorns, star of the ocean.
You shine forth with a clear, godly light, which falls on all creatures.
Vessel of divine grace, goodness and mercy.
The word became flesh, sweet is the vessel of love.)*

***Presentation of the Offering**

E. Daley

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

***Come, Light of lights, come shine upon us,
Come, touch our hearts, we long for you.
Come, touch our lives, come and renew us,
Come to us, Emmanuel.***

Prayers

***Recessional Hymn** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

VU #25 (verses 1, 3 and 4)

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!**

**Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!**

**Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down.
*glad tidings of the King of Kings.***

***Sending Out**[2]

***What seeds have have been planted in us,
Unasked, uncompromised, unseen?
Why are we those who out of the awakening of love
And the stirring of life
Invited to be bearers of hope?***

Because you know the power of saying 'yes' to hope,
And through you new realities are born.
And so we all cry

"Magnificat!"

8.

***Choral Commissioning**

E. Daley

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

Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here Lord, abide.

Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.

(Georg Weissel 1642, trans. Catherine Winkworth 1855, alt.)

Postlude

Prelude (from Lute Suite No. 1, BMV 996)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Lori Gemmell – Harp

[1] From "*Cloth for the Cradle*", adapted, with permission, Wild Goose Publications [2] *ibid*

Fairlawn acknowledges the sacred land on which our church stands. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to meet and work in the community, on this territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations. The original nations continue to cry out for justice, and as treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation.

American composer **Taylor Scott Davis** has written and arranged choral music for groups including the Grammy winning choir *Conspirare* and renowned vocal ensemble *VOCES8*. His music has been performed throughout the USA, Europe, South America, and South Africa. When not writing or conducting, Taylor Scott Davis serves as the Director of Music and Worship Arts at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. He is a 2003 graduate and notable alumnus of Centenary College of Louisiana.

Magnificat or Song of Mary, is a Liturgical hymn from the Gospel of Luke (1:46-55). In the preceding narrative, the Virgin Mary greets her cousin Elizabeth, who praises Mary's faith. Mary's response has become one of the most famous Biblical texts, with notable musical settings by Vivaldi, Bach and Rutter. *Davis' Magnificat* is a five-movement work for orchestra, choir, and soprano soloist. It includes traditional liturgical lyrics as well as a new text by theologian Dr. Terry York that channels Mary's intuition to foreshadow the trouble ahead for her son.

A Donation to the Special Music Fund may be made by using the envelope provided in your bulletin or securely via the QR Code. If you wish to donate to the Fund in memory of a loved one, please provide the name(s) so honoured, in order that we may appropriately acknowledge the donation.

