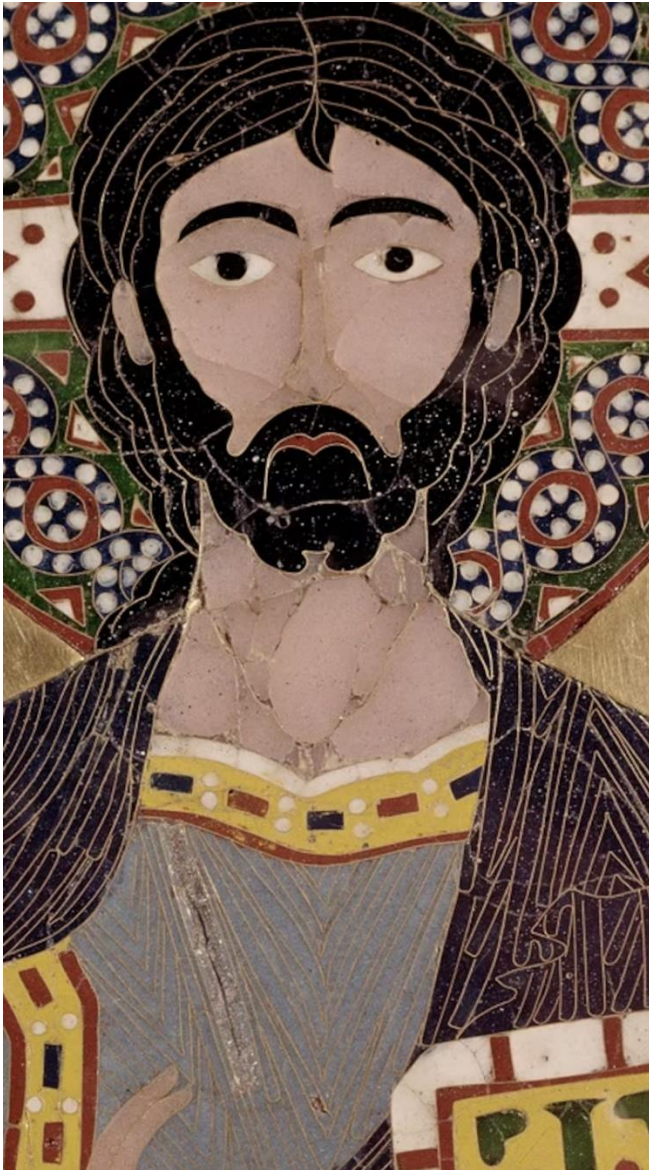




FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue
United Church
Reign of Christ
Sunday, November 24, 2024
10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts
Walk-in Support:
Doug Knights and Rob Metcalf
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

***Processional Hymn** Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

VU #325

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.**

**To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.**

***Call and Response** A Story from Our Past (from 1 Samuel 8)

The elders of Israel gathered together and came to the prophet Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons are useless as prophets; Appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

You have no idea what you are asking!

Samuel, as God's spokesperson, was displeased Samuel
He prayed to the Lord.
And got a surprising answer.

***Listen to the people. Don't take it personally.
It may feel like they are rejecting you,
but it's me they don't trust.
I rescued them from Egypt.
They forsook me for what they wanted to worship.
Warn them of the perils of a king, but listen to them."***

Hoping they might see sense, Samuel asked them,
***Do you really want a king? He will make claims on your life.
He will conscript your sons for war.
Some will be officers; most will be enlisted men.
Some will be employed in his munitions plants."***

Hearing nothing, Samuel warned them about what would happen to their daughters.

***The king will hire your daughters as perfumers and cooks and bakers. They
will be employed but stuck in traditional roles and lose their sense of
family.***

Still hearing nothing, Samuel grew more insistent and warned them about taxes.
***He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give
them to his rich friends.
He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his
officials.
Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he
will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks.***

The people stood with their arms crossed, waiting for him to appoint a king for them. He got more serious.

***You will discover that you are the slaves of the king. There will be a day
when cry for God to dethrone the king, but God will say "I give you exactly
what you wanted."***

The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No! We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

4.

Samuel listened, and told God what they said.

God said "Listen to them, and give them a king."

What is the moral of the story?

***Sometimes you get what you want,
and it isn't what you need.***

***Invitation to Worship**

On this Sunday, we call Reign of Christ, we acknowledge that Jesus was no earthly king, just a Jewish Rabbi, whom we began to recognise as chosen of God to teach us of the graciousness of God, and help us discover what we need.

***Introit**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

E. Daley

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.
(William Chatterton Dix, 1837-1898)

Scripture

John 18:33-38

New Century Version

Pilate went inside the palace and called Jesus to him and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
Jesus said, "Is that your own question, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I am not one of you. It was your own people and their leading priests who handed you over to me. What have you done wrong?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it belonged to this world, my servants would have fought to keep me from being given over to the Jewish leaders. But my kingdom is from another place."

Pilate said, "So you are a king!"

Jesus answered, "You are the one saying I am a king. This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me."

Pilate said, "What is truth?"

Anthem

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

John Van Maanen (b. 1958)

You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.
 You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
 of the way you took and gave.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,
 stripped of might upon the cross,
 shining in eternal glory,
 beggared by a soldier's toss.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 you who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
 sit in power at God's side.
 You, who preach a way that's narrow,
 have a love that reaches wide.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
 Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
 Worthy your defeat and victory.
 Worthy still your peace and strife.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 you, who are our death and life.
 (Sylvia Dunstan, 1955-1993)

The Story of Rindercella**Reflection**

Jesus, the Anti-Monarchist

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

The Celebration of the Christ Candle ~ Walk-in Support**The Passing of the Peace**

Introduction of Offering

Offertory Anthem A Hymn for St. Cecilia

E. Daley

(St. Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and church music, and Nov. 22 was St. Cecilia's Day)

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing, in words of youth and phrases of the Spring,
walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray, and sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
'til angels, voyaging in upper air pause on a wing and gather the clear sound into celestial joy,
wound and unwound, a silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth, in words of music, and each word a truth;
marriage of heart and longings that aspire, a bond of roses and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away, terror must gather to a martyr's death;
but never tremble, the last indrawn breath remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries Cecilia's music dances in the skies.
Lend us a fragment of the immortal air, that with your choiring angels
we may share a word to light us thro' time-fettered night, water of life or rose of paradise,
so from the earth another song shall rise to meet your own in heaven's long delight.
(Ursula Vaughan Williams, 1911-2007 – used with permission)

*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** Be Thou My Vision

VU #642 (verses, 1, 2, 4 and 5)

**Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

***Sending Out[1]**

We call you 'King', Jesus,
but you're not like any king we've ever heard of;

You don't flaunt your power,
waving your hand dismissively
to change the lives of your subjects;
You don't hoard your wealth,
and tax your people just to grow more comfortable
in your isolated palace;
You don't exploit the weak and unconnected,
or use the ambition of ladder-climbers
to further your control.

No, you are the King who lays down his crown,
to walk among us as one of us;
You are the King who lays down his life,
to bring abundant, eternal life to all who seek it;
You are the King who draws the weak, the rejected, the poor, the child
into the centre of the conversation
and into the heart of where real power lies.

You, Jesus, are the UnKing – the King whose Kingdom,
redefines everything we know
and will continue to do so for eternity.

Help us to see you as you walk among us.

8.

***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] John van der Laar, with permission



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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