



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
Advent III  
Sunday, December 15, 2024  
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

### Advent Candle ~ Joy

*(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

Jessica Baugniet, Abby, Bennett and Mason

It's an old story,  
Where families are uprooted for the sake of increasing the wealth of people  
who lord their power over them.  
The rich have insatiable hungers  
which rob families of their joy.  
Families are displaced from Africville  
and their ancestral lands  
and their apartments  
when new transit lines will bring money to developers.  
They lose the places where they have celebrated with their neighbours.  
We speak of Jesus and Joseph and Mary as the Holy Family, a displaced family.  
All families are holy, unique, cherished by the Creator.  
We light a candle this day for all families who must journey somewhere else in  
search of joy.

### Lighting the Advent Candle

Lighting of the pink candle in the Advent Wreath ~ Joy

**\*Processional Hymn** O Ancient Love

VU #17

**O ancient love, processing through the ages;  
O hidden love, revealed in human form;  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:  
*O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.***

O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;  
 O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;  
 O hungry love, that lay within a manger:  
*O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
 O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;  
 O hopeful love that promises tomorrow:  
*O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;  
 O boundless love, that rises with the morn;  
 O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:  
*O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

**\*Gathering Litany**[1] Shhh

Based on Isaiah 9 and 11

Shhhh

***SHHHH***

Shhhh

***SHHHH***

The people

***The people***

The people who walked

***The people who walked***

In Darkness

***The people who walked in darkness***

Darkness

***Darkness***

The people who walked in darkness have seen

***A GREAT LIGHT!***

4.

Light has dawned on them,  
Light has dawned on a land as dark as death  
You, O Holy One, have increased their joy

***You have given us gladness.***

You have shattered their unjust burdens

***Lifted the weight from our shoulders***

And all the boots of trampling soldiers

***Are stilled***

And all the garments filled with blood

***Are fuel for a fire.***

For a child has been born to us

A child given to us

***Shhhh***

And they shall be called

***Wonderful Counsellor! Mighty God! Eternal One!***

The Prince of Peace

***The Prince of Peace***

Shhhh

***Shhhh***

Do you hear?

***We hear nothing***

Listen for the sound of an infant crying

***Shhhh***

The Spirit of the Holy One will rest upon that child

A spirit of wisdom and understanding

A spirit of counsel and power

A spirit knowledge and reverence.

***The child will not judge by what the elite want them to see***

***They will not decide by what the clamouring they hear.***

***They will lead the poor with justice***

***Defend the humble with fairness***

***And using their words shall strike down the hard-hearted***

***And silence the wicked.***

The child will be clothed, wrapped, in integrity.

***The wolf will lie down with the sheep  
The leopard beside the young goat  
The calf and lion shall grow up together***

A little child shall lead them,

***A little child shall lead us all.***

**\*Introit**

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

E. Daley

The King shall come when morning dawns,  
and light and beauty brings,  
"Hail, Christ the Lord!" Thy people pray,  
come quickly, King of kings!  
(John Brownlie, 1857-1925)

**Scripture** Zephaniah 3:14-20

New Revised Standard Version

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The HOLY ONE has taken away the judgments against you;  
turned away your enemies.  
The HOLY ONE is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The HOLY ONE, is in your midst,  
a sentinel;  
who will rejoice over you with gladness;  
renew you in love;  
celebrate you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival."

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

6.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the HOLY ONE.

**Anthem**

All Praise to Thee

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

All praise to Thee, eternal God, who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,  
dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds on worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia.

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,  
to make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine. Alleluia.

A little Child, Thou art our Guest, that weary ones may in Thee rest;  
forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heav'n from earth. Alleluia.  
(Martin Luther 1483-1546, translation unknown)

**Reflection**

"An End to Chaos"

Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts

**Passing of the Peace**

**Introduction of the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett (b. 1952)

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
not by any din of drums,  
nor his manners, nor his airs,  
nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
not by his crown or by his gown,  
but his coming known shall be,  
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.  
(Anon.)

**\*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 of the People and The Lord's Prayer<sup>[2]</sup>**

**O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!  
Release a space to plant your Presence here.**

**Imagine your possibilities now.  
Embody your desire in every light and form.**

**Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.**

**Untie the knots of failure binding us,  
as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.**

**Help us not forget our Source,  
yet free us from not being in the Present.  
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song  
from gathering to gathering. Amen.  
May our future actions grow from here!**

**\*Recessional Hymn** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

VU #44 (verses 1-3)

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold,  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

8.

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, and cease your strife, to hear the angels sing.**

**\*Sending Out[3]**

The season of Advent challenges us  
to see God's vision of what is yet to be,  
to hear God's voice calling anew,  
to smell the fragrance of God in our world.

***We prepare a manger in our hearts  
for the birth of the sacred.***

**\*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**

- [1] Wild Good Worship, adapted, with permission
- [2] New Translation from Aramaic, with permission
- [3] Rex A. E. Hunt, adapted, with permission

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