



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, March 31, 2024**

## **Easter Sunday**

**Thank you for joining us today.**

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like.

**\*- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

**Congregational Responses in Bold**

### **Prelude**

*This Joyful Eastertide*

Trad. Easter hymn, arranged by Kathleen M Basi

flute solo performed by Lauri Donaldson

(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

### **Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour**

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

### **Easter Proclamation**

Mark 16:1-8

**Introit** (please stand)

*Alleluia, the great storm is over, lift up your wings and fly.*

*Alleluia, the great storm is over, lift up your wings and fly.*

*(repeat after verse)*

## **Call to Worship – Easter Affirmation**

Reader: Lynne Snyder

One: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness before the chorus of the dawn. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

***All: Christ is risen indeed!***

One: Risen with glory and grace in reserve, and authority beyond measure. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

***All: Christ is risen indeed!***

One: Risen to prove that violence is no solution; to offer us peace and life in all its fullness. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

***All: Christ is risen indeed!***

One: God has the last laugh: For hope comes beyond despair; For freedom comes beyond the cross; For peace comes beyond the violence; For friendship comes beyond the betrayal. The first laugh and the last laugh are God's. And God has made laughter for us. Alleluia, Christ is risen

***All: Christ is risen indeed!***

## **Opening Hymn**

*Sing With All the Saints in Glory*

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 442)

(See music at the end of this document)

## **Unison Prayer**

***When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life Jesus brings. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, and peace will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.***

## **Assurance of Grace and Peace**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: ***And also with you.***

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

## **Passing the Peace**

*This is the Day*

***This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;***

***We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.***

***This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.***

***This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.***

## **Words of Integration & Guidance**

**Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber**

So, I have some Easter-related questions, God. I'm wondering – that one dawn, so many years ago, when Jesus came out of his own tomb, did he step haltingly toward the light, or did he run? Did he know who he was right away, or did that take a minute? Did he harbor resentments about his faltering friends or was he free? My Easter request is this: Help us remember that resurrection isn't reversal, that as we return to life, we are carrying our own wounds from loss and isolation. But we are also emerging with new beauty and new wisdom. We are not who we were. But we do get to discover who we are. Help us not foreclose on each other. Maybe just grant us a holy curiosity for a while? Please give me courage to trust the hope I feel right now. Save me from squandering this moment of new life. Remind me that all the fear and cynicism in the world never protects me from pain and disappointment in the way I think they will. Give us back to each other when the time is right. May we recognize you, our wounded and resurrected God, in our belly laughs and crocodile tears... and maybe... even in each other. Amen.

## **Rise Up**

### **The Words of Holy Scripture**

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 25:6-9

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

### **The Gospel Lesson**

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-24

***All: Glory to you, O Christ.***

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***All: Praise to you, O Christ.***

## **Homily**

*Out of Chaos, Hope*

**Rev. Linda Knieriemen**

**Offering  
& Offertory**

*Arise O Church, Arise*  
Lauri Donaldson, Jeff Spangler, and Peter Black  
Composers: John Angotti

## **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell**

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

### **\*Doxology**      *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

*Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia give praise to our God.*

*Spread the good news o'er all the earth, Jesus has died and is risen.*

*Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia give praise to our God.*

### **\*Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: *We lift them up to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: *It is good to give God thanks & praise*

### **\*Creation's Praise**

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Holy, holy, holy, God ruler almighty;*

*Heav'n and earth are full of your glory; Glory be to you O God.*

*Blessed is the One who comes, who comes in the name of God.*

*Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

*(please be seated)*

**Breaking of the Bread** *Let Us Be Bread*

*Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,  
broken and shared, life for the world.  
Let us be wine, love freely poured,  
let us be one with the Lord.*

**Sharing of the Bread & Cup**

(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)

Receive the Bread of Life. *Amen.*

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. *Amen.*

## **Christ is Risen Today!**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer**

Aramaic translation

*Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**\*Hymn of Sending**

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 444)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Trad. Easter hymn, arranged by Kathleen M Basi  
flute solo performed by Lauri Donaldson

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community  
and the work of our service groups here:

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

## Sing with All the Saints in Glory 442



1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -  
 2. O what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has  
 3. Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who  
 4. Life e - ter - nal! O what won - ders Crowd on faith; what



rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,  
 yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing,  
 once was dead; Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!  
 joy un - known, When, a - midst earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the  
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,  
 Child of God, lift up your head! Pa - tri - archs from  
 Saints shall stand be - fore the throne! O to en - ter



clouds are break - ing, Soon the storms of time shall cease;  
 Christ pre - pares it, There on high our wel - come waits;  
 dis - tant a - ges, Saints all long - ing for their heav'n,  
 that bright por - tal, See that glow - ing fir - ma - ment,



In God's like - ness, we a - wak - en, Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.  
 Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.  
 Proph - ets, psalm - ists, seers, and sag - es, All a - wait the glo - ry giv'n.  
 Know, with you, O God im - mor - tal, Je - sus Christ whom you have sent!

## Now the Green Blade Rises 444



1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2. In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3. Forth he came at East - er, like the ris - en grain,  
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 Think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 Your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 Raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.