

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

–Arundati Roy, Indian activist and writer



*Peaceable Kingdom, Edward Hicks, 1830-32, Oil on Canvas, The Met Museum, NY*

**Prelude** *New Service Music Medley*

**Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome**

**Centering Music and Lighting of the Candle of Hope** *We Light a Candle*

**We light a candle for hope, and our world that's longing for hope.**  
**We light a candle for hope, and our world that's longing for hope.**  
**Holy One shine with the fire of our lives.**  
**We light a candle for hope, and our world that's longing for hope.**

**Call to Community** *Donna Scaper, UCC minister, adapted*

**One:** Advent is the season of waiting; we wait for the world to be made right.  
**Many:** Each year we come back searching for a sign of hope, but struggling to find it.

Asking for patience, but complaining about the noise.  
**Longing for peace, but distracted by busyness.**

Looking to put the reason for the season back in, and take plastic out.  
**Rushing to sing the Christmas carols, and stopping to answer a text right now.**

Waiting is difficult.  
**God of eternity, as we light the candle of hope, help us to find waiting a bit easier this year.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *Flowers Will Bloom in the Desert/Handout*

**Opening Prayer** *enfleshed.com, adapted*

Spirit of potential and possibility, you hold us through seasons of change and anxiety. May we trust in your promises as we welcome life's unfoldings, whatever they may bring. We listen for prophets of hope crying out in the wilderness. We are confronted with truths that set free. We open ourselves to the holy offerings of those through whom you are speaking, God of all time. We prepare for the call to courage and we listen for the leading of justice. Where you are, there is wisdom and understanding. With openness, with faith, with knowledge of your love that brings renewal, we strive to live with patient and active anticipation of your Kingdom come. Amen.

**December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

We're so glad you've joined us today. Please feel free to ask any questions and participate or not in any parts of the worship service as you desire.

**Service Volunteers**

Usher: **Wayne Titus**  
Greeters: **Ann & Jim Hopkins**  
Offertory: **Laurie VanDenBeldt, Barb Witt, Stan Greene**  
Acolyte: **Jennifer Schwarb**  
Reader: **Chris Maitner**  
Sound Board: **David Bohn**  
Video Camera: **Toni Perrine**

**Staff**

Pastor **Rev. Jody Betten**  
jody@douglasucc.org

Music Director **Peter Black**

Cantor **Jeff Spangler**

Administrative Asst. **Julie Ridl**  
julie@douglasucc.org  
Phone **269.857.2085**

**Worship**

Sundays at 10am

**Quiet Contemplation**

Thursdays at 5pm

**Our Mission**

To grow together spiritually as progressive Christians, welcoming all, and pursuing peace, justice, love, and healing for all creation.

We demonstrate this by:

- Being Open and Affirming
- Acting as a Creation Justice Church
- Respecting and understanding all belief and faith traditions
- Recognizing and celebrating our connectedness to all peoples
- Valuing questions rather than answers

*Asterisk (\*) means stand if you wish and are comfortable doing so.*

Congregational voice parts look like this.

**And service music lyrics look like this.**

**DOUGLAS UCC**



## Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us share peace with one another

### \*Passing the Peace *Hands Shaped Like a Cradle*

Put Peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,  
Protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

**Ancient Word:** Isaiah 11:1-9 *New Century Version, adapted*

**Contemporary Word** *Blessing When the World is Ending*  
Jan Richardson, white female theologian and poet

**Homily** Panel Discussion with Pastoral Search Committee

**Moment of Quiet for Reflection**

**Offering and Offertory** *Be the Light, by Ed Bolduc*  
Jeff Spangler

**Joys and Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell**

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

### \*Doxology *Oh Glorious God*

O Glorious God to you we bring  
Praise, treasures, lives as offering;  
Spirit of Hope with in us dwell;  
Come Jesus, our Emanuel.

**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  
and praise.

**Song of Preparation** *Body of God*

God breaking through to our lives, but this is no great surprise.  
Babies and barns, green fields and farms; This is the body of God.  
Star in the dark sky we share, straw underfoot as we look up and stare,  
Each part of creation a perfect formation that lives as the body of God.  
Where else would God be but right here?  
Under our noses, in the midst of our fears,  
God in the manger, God in the cows,  
God in the Christ child who showed the world how.  
God in our stories, God in our world,  
God in our lives is the Good News we've heard.

### \*Sharing of the Bread and Cup *(gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays)*

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. Amen.

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Creator who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom  
come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our  
daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For  
yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Ways to be Love in the World**

\*Hymn of Sending *God Make Us Agents of Joyful Rebellion/Handout*

\*Benediction

**Postlude** *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*  
arr. by Larry Shackley



Scan this code to read and  
subscribe to our **Weekly  
E-Pistle** – all the news and  
events in our busy community!

### Prayer List

Bev Hawkes; Anne Dooley's  
daughter, Dee; Dan McGavin  
and Family of Carol Brown;  
Barbara Lindsay (Lewis Corbin's  
Bridge Partner); Rev. Marchiene  
Rienstra Family; Karen Clement  
(Friend of Debra Carr's); Ann  
and Jim Hopkins; Sally LaRowe  
(Linda Charvat's friend); Janice  
Campbell children &  
grandchildren (Pete Wehle's  
friends); James Higgins (Friend  
of Shane Anderson and Michael  
Tuleja), Joe Scarpone (Friend of  
Tom Fahlstrom); Fred Hamlin;  
Nancy Grib (Friend of Pamela  
Chappell); Stuart Family; Mary  
Westenbroek; Jerry Elpers and  
family (Beth Howley's Dad); Edie  
Plantinga (Nancy's Mom); Max  
Matteson; Eric Cooley (Jo  
Cooley's brother)

### Birthdays

December 4: Shane Anderson

December 5: Brad Hopkins,  
David Nadeau

December 6: Chris Maitner,  
David Bazany

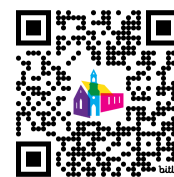
December 7: Dan Sutherland

### Weekly Financial Stewardship Report

for November 24, 2024

Attendance: 112 Viewers: 149

Collection Plate/Mail:	\$6,213.00
Online Giving:	\$1,541.38
Total:	\$7,754.38



Scan this code to support us  
with an online gift. (The code  
will take you to our website:  
douglasucc.org/giving.)

Or give from your smartphone  
by texting any US\$ amount to  
844-931-2849.

**Thank you!**

Your gifts sustain our church  
community and our mission  
of service.

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

# Flowers Will Bloom In the Desert

## Opening Song

Walter Farquharson

Ron Klusmeier

1. Flow - ers will bloom in the des - ert, and  
2. The hun - gry will feed at the ban - quet, the  
3. The poor will know good news is spo - ken, their  
4. These prom - is es, God You have giv - en, your

en - e - mies learn to be friends. God's  
blind - ed be a - - ble to see. All  
val - ue af - firmed by their God. The  
peo - ple have nur tured this dream. In

world will be filled with God's be - ing, will  
cap - tives will walk out of pris - ons, sur -  
crip - pled will dance with God's prais - es and  
Je - sus you call us to ac - tion, you

wel - come the One that God sends.  
-prised at their call to be free.  
lil - ies shall burst from dead sod.  
hold us in high - est es - teem.

*Refrain*  
Flow - ers will bloom in the des - ert, cap - tives walk free. These

prom - i - ses, God, you have giv - en, your

peo - ple have nur - tured this dream.

# God, Make Us Agents of Joyful Rebellion

David Bjorlin

Closing Song

Benjamin Brody



1. God, make us a - gents of joy - ful re - bel - lion  
2. Some will be Ma - rys who sing down in - jus - tice,  
3. Laughing in an - swer to snarl - ing de - re - sions,  
4. God, make us a - gents of joy - ful re - bel - lion



called to re - sist sul - len em - pires of fear,  
Oth - ers like Mo - ses will speak truth to pow'r.  
we dance to coun - ter op - pres - ion and pain.  
called to sing out 'til our faith is made sight.



fueled not by ha - tred but love for all peo - ple,  
Few, like brave mid - wives will shield life from e - vil,  
Feast - ing to - geth - er de - spite our di - vi - sions,  
Fueled by the sto - ries of saint - ly sub - ver - sives,



we stand u - nit - ed, as - sured you are here.  
All must be proph - ets a - wake for this hour!  
we pledge our - selves to Christ's up - side - down reign.  
we stand u - ni - ted, your jus - tice our light.