

“How empires end matters. Imagine the unshakable confidence that emerges when we are able, yet, to cultivate connection and encounter beauty and treat each other well, in the midst of All This.”

—Sendolo Diaminah, black, community organizer, somatic healer



Photo by Rachel Powell on Unsplash.com

Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Music *We Gather in Love*

We come to gather in our weakness, to reconnect as seekers,
And worship the God we love. We come to light our lives on fire,
With mercy we inspire, we gather all as one.
United in one Spirit, each diff'rent in appearance,
All are welcome in the house of God. We gather in love.

Call to Worship

One: On this morning, as every morning,
Many: we are surrounded by Holy grace.
One: In these moments, as every moment,
Many: we are called to follow the ways of Love.
One: Throughout this day, as every day,
Many: we are taught peace and hope by the Spirit.
One: May we feel grace, and go to live, love, peacefully and hopefully.
Many: May it be so.

***Opening Hymn** *God Be In My Head/Handout*

Opening Prayer

Open our ears, Teacher of Souls, so we might hear the cries of the sorrowful and sit with them, the loneliness of the unloved and embrace them, the songs of little children and learn from them. Give us the words we need, Teacher of Justice, so we might challenge the powerful and callous, work to bring enemies together, and speak out when others are silent. Teacher of Hope, may the words of our mouths and the longings of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable to you. 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** *Spirit Fill Me*

Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.

Help me give my hand to those in need, let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love, we can work together to heal this divided world.
Spirit come and fill us, fill us with your peace,
fill us with your joy and your love,
Spirit come and show us, show us how to care,
show us how to share your light.

September 15, 2024 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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. We hope you have a wonderful experience and will want to return.

Service Volunteers

Greeters
Barb Witt and Phil Raywood
Offertory and Communion
Bernie Lopata, Tom Fahlstrom, Paul Burdick
Acolyte **Carol Rice**
Reader **Eric Lejeune**
Sound Board **Vicky Cobb**
Video Camera **Kathy Hartman**
Volunteer Coordinator
Michael VerMerris

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



Words of Integration and Guidance

Einstein and Lieserl in conversation, from the play, "Relativity"

An Ancient Reading, James 3:1-12

A Gospel Reading, Mark 8:27-38

Homily **Sticks and Stones**
Rev. Jody Betten

Moment of Reflection

Offering and Offertory *How Could Anyone?*
By LibbyRoderick
Pamela Chappell and Peter Wehle

Joys and Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God! **Many: Alleluia!**
One: O God, **Many: Hear our prayer.**

*Doxology *Song of Praise*

Creator of this great land we adore you.
Renewer of your people hear our praise.
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise,
Continue to be present in life-giving ways, Great 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 and praise.**

Creation's Praise *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy God, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God,
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is the One who comes in God's name,
Hosanna in the highest.

Preparing the Elements *Eat of This Bread*

Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
Come and be fed, come now and dine.
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
Here all are fed, here all may dine.

*Sharing of the Bread and Cup

These are the gifts of God for you today!
(*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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

*Closing Hymn *If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers/Handout*

Benediction

Postlude *Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (arr. Jason Krug), Peter Black*



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

Prayer List

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; Carol Brown and Dan McGavin; John Kerr; Dave and Shirley Lawson; Ruth Fahlstrom (daughter of Tom Fahlstrom); 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

September 19- Matthew Blasco
September 21- Barbara Lucier

Anniversaries

September 19- Mark Johnston & Jeffery Lund

Weekly Financial Stewardship Report

for September 8, 2024

Attendance: 77 Viewers: 206

Collection Plate/Mail: \$960.00

Online Giving: \$3,104.66

Total: \$4,064.66



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.

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

56 Wall Street
PO Box 519
Douglas, MI. 49406
www.DouglasUCC.org

God Be In My Head

Old English Prayer from *Sarum Primer*

H. Walford Davies

God be in my head, and in my un - der - stand - ing;

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "God be in my head, and in my un - der - stand - ing;".

4
God be in my eyes and in my look - ing. God be in my

The second system of music starts at measure 4. It continues in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God be in my eyes and in my look - ing. God be in my".

8
mouth and in my speak - ing; God be in my heart and in my

The third system of music starts at measure 8. It continues in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics are: "mouth and in my speak - ing; God be in my heart and in my".

13
think - ing; God be at my end and in my de - part - ing.

The fourth system of music starts at measure 13. It continues in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics are: "think - ing; God be at my end and in my de - part - ing;".

If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers

Closing Song

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Trad English Melody - O Waly Waly



1. If we just talk _____ of thoughts and
 2. If we just dream _____ of what could
 3. If we just sing _____ of do - ing
 4. God may our prayers _____ and dreams and



prayers _____ And don't live out _____
 be _____ And do not build _____
 good _____ And don't walk through _____
 songs _____ Lead to a faith _____



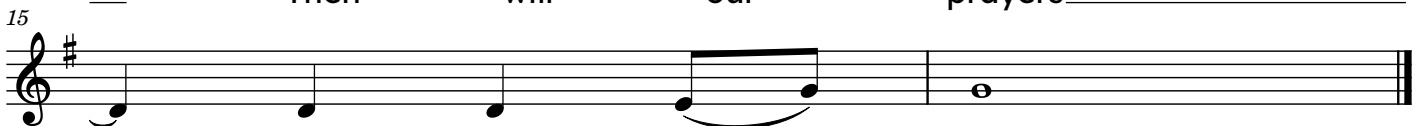
— a faith that _____ dares, _____ And don't take
 — com - mun - i - ty, _____ And do not
 — our neigh - bor - hood _____ To learn its
 — that takes on _____ wrongs _____ That works for



on _____ the ways of _____ death,
 seek _____ to change our _____ ways,
 hope _____ to ease its _____ pain,
 peace _____ and jus - tice _____ too,



— Our thoughts and prayers _____
 — Our dreams of of change _____
 — Our talk of of good _____
 — Then will our prayers _____



— are fleet - ing _____ breath.
 — are false dis - plays.
 — is simp - ly _____ vain.
 — bring joy to _____ you.