

“We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.”

–Max DePree



Photo by Dan Plasman

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 different in appearance,
All are welcome in the house of God. We gather in love.

Call to Worship

R: God in daycare	L: God at home with a weary parent
R: God at the whims of unhealed adults	L: God at the mercy of violent systems
R: God hiding under the desk	L: God, sole survivor of the family buried under rubble
R: God of vibrant laughter	L: God of holy vulnerability
R: God of open-hearted trust	L: God of everyday awe
R: God in need of protection	L: God of inherent worth
R: We yield to your needs	L: We relish your wonder
All: We honor you today and always	

*Opening Hymn *Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning*/Handout

Opening Prayer Daniel A. Lord and William Barclay, adapted

Holy One, may we have too deep a sense of humor to be proud. May we know our absurdity before we act absurdly. May we realize that when we are humble, we are most human, most truthful, and most worthy of your serious consideration. And so Holy One, give us the humility which realizes its ignorance, admits its mistakes, recognizes its need, welcomes advice, helps to build up rather than to criticize, to sympathize rather than to discourage, to encourage rather than to tear down, to think of people at their best rather than at their worst. 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 22, 2024 18th 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

Jennifer Schwarb, Linda Charvat

Offertory and Communion

Sue Scott, Larry Feurst, Greg Sherman

Acolyte **Colette DeNooyer**

Reader **Jeremy Lund**

Sound Board **Chris Clark**

Video Camera **Lewis Corbin**

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

Barbara Brown Taylor, white female Episcopal priest

An Ancient Christian Reading, James 4:1-12

A Gospel Reading, Mark 9:30-37

Homily First or Last – What Will it Be?
Rev. Jody Betten

Moment of Reflection

Offering and Offertory *What a Wonderful World*
By George David Weiss and Bob Thiele
Max Brown

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.**

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 Blessed Assurance/New Century Hymnal #473

Benediction "For There is Always Light," Inaugural Poem, Amanda Gorman

Postlude *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* (arr. Marianne Kim), 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 22: Laurie VanDenBeldt

September 24: Laurie

Donaldson, Elaine Troehler

September 26: Emily Tieman

September 28: Fred Hamlin, Wayne Titus

Anniversaries

September 25: Peter Black & Robert Trenary

September 28: Bill Briggs & Jeff Chinski

Weekly Financial Stewardship Report

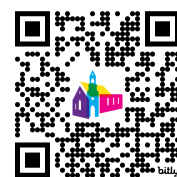
for September 15, 2024

Attendance: 90 Viewers: 250

Collection Plate/Mail: \$1929.00

Online Giving: \$1,709.91

Total: \$3,638.91



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

Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning

Ruth C. Duck

Tune: Beach Spring 1844

1. Ho - ly Wis - dom, lamp of
2. Vine of truth, in you we

3
learn - ing bless the light that rea - son
flour ish; by your grace we learn and

5
lends. Teach us judge - ment as we
grow. May the word of Christ a -

7
kin - dle sparks of thought your Spi - rit
-mong_ us shape our life, our search to

9
sends. Sanc - ti - fy our search for knowl - edge and the
know. Joined to Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, may we

12
truth that sets_ us free. Come, il -
help the church con - vey wit - ness

14
lum - ine mind and spi - rit joined in
to the sav - ing gos - pel, bear - ing

16
deep - est u - ni - ty.
fruit of faith to - day.

Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.