



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

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.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude *My Lord, What a Morning*

Peter Black

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

Welcome & Announcements

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.

Introit (please stand)

This is the Day

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Call to Worship

Reader: Stan Greene

One: Sing a new song unto our God!

Many: Make a joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth.

One: Sing praise to our Still-Creating Easter God

Many: For our God has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.

One: Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

Many: Let us place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.

One: For God has taken ordinary things and made them extraordinary.

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad! Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

We Live By Faith and Not By Sight

(Black New Century Hymnal No.256)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Earth Day Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we have failed to be good stewards of our planet. We now ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. Let us pray for: water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds. Let us pray for: air, wind, climate and weather. Let us pray for: animals, especially endangered species. Help us, O Creator, to live in harmony, safety and just-sharing of resources among all so that we can help bring about your kin-dom of heaven here on this beautiful planet you have entrusted to our care. 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

Metta Prayer

May I be at peace. May my heart remain open.

May I awaken to the light of my own true nature.

May I be healed and be a source of healing for all beings.

May we be at peace. May our hearts remain open.

May we awaken to the light of our own true nature.

May we be healed and be a source of healing for all beings.

Words of Integration & Guidance

Guidance

Rev. Ian Lawton

I used to like the bumper sticker that says, "I used to be doubtful, but now I'm not so sure." Doubt is something I am VERY sure about. It is important and healthy. Unfortunately, doubt is often seen as a weakness. In some religious circles, doubt is even seen as the opposite of faith. I once heard a televangelist say, "Give doubt an inch, and it will become your ruler." I doubt it. Doubt is one of the ways you inch towards truth. Doubt is powerful. It is the way things change. Doubt is a personal invitation, a welcome sign that says, "Inquire within." It is a massive question mark on the way things are, an invitation to reconsider the status quo. Doubt is a built-in lighthouse, warning you when religious beliefs, personal decisions or social perspectives are leading you straight on to the rocks of catastrophe. Doubt is important to question worn-out personal beliefs, such as self-limiting fear, and doubt is essential to question political and economic systems that are no longer working. Doubt is one of intuition's most powerful tools. Use it wisely, not as the end point or a permanent posture, but as a spark to break the bonds of personal and social restraint. Both your mind and your experience, not to mention your underlying awareness, are powerful tools to test all that you hear and see and take you closer to the truth of your essential nature. So give yourself the benefit of doubt.

Resurrection Witness

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Acts 2:14a, 22-32

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“The Benefits of Doubt” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

What Faith Can Do

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composers: Scott Davis and Scott Krippayne

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

*Doxology

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 *A Communion Hymn*

This we do in remembrance of You, this we do to honor you; Oh-h-h-h--

This we do in remembrance of You, because you have bid us to.

(Repeat after verse)

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.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

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**

Let It Breathe On Me

(Black New Century Hymnal No.288)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Christ Arose

Peter Black

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and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

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

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

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

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

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*Henry Alford, 1844; alt.**John 20:24-29**Unison*

1 We live by faith and not by sight;
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un-belief;
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gracious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
 nor fol-low where Christ trod; But in con-fess-ing
 and may our faith a-bound To call on you when
 in realms of clear-er light We may be-hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
 we re-joice: our Sav-ior and our God!
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end-less sight.

As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.
Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
 Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

Let It Breathe on Me

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Magnolia Lewis-Butts, 1941; alt.

Job 33:4; Ezek. 37:1-14; John 20:19-23

1 Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of the
2 While I'm work - ing, God, in your vine - yard here, I can - not
3 When the path - way, God, I can - not see, when the way is

Spir - it breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, let it
serve with - out you near; O come, blessed Spir - it, so
hard, O breathe on me; Give me grace to know when

breathe on me, let the breath of God now breathe on me.
close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.
you are near, then, I pray, O Spir - it, breathe on me.