



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 21, 2024

Fourth 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.**

Congregational Responses in Bold

“All that you touch You Change. All that you Change Changes you. The only lasting truth is Change.”

—Octavia Butler, black, female, science fiction writer, activist, public theologian

Ringing in the Hour & Lighting of Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Eric LeJeune

Introit

The Lord's My Shepherd
vocal solo by **Rebecca Russcher**
(arr. Bob Chilcott)

Call to Worship

Psalm 23 adapted from enfleshed.com

One: The Holy One is our Guide, we are not alone.

Many: *We are invited to wide open fields of liberation and led to protected sacred waters.*

One: The Holy One refreshes our souls.

Many: *We are invited toward the Ways of Life for the sake of Love.*

One: Lead us today, Holy One, guard us from the snares of life with your Wise Love.

Many: *We are here to worship in the spirit of liberation, protection, life, and love.*

Opening Hymn

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

(New Century Hymnal #563)

(See music at the end of this document)

Unison Prayer

Psalm 23 adapted from enfleshed.com

Holy Guide, when we walk through the valley of temptations, remind us of beloved community that keeps us from slipping into the logic of security and isolation. For you are with those who cherish tenderness and faithfulness in love, Holy One. Your steadfastness, your devotion to freedom, and your incarnate presence comfort us. Your table is plentiful, laden with good gifts, enough for all. We give thanks to you in our time of worship today. 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

Mark Lilla, white, political scientist, professor of humanities, and author, NYT, 5/22/2020

The pandemic has brought home just how great a responsibility we bear toward the future, and also how inadequate our knowledge is for making wise decisions and anticipating consequences. Perhaps that is why our prophets and augurs can't keep up with the demand for foresight. At some level, people must be thinking that the more they learn about what is predetermined, the more control they will have. This is an illusion. Human beings want to feel that they are on a power walk into the future, when in fact we are always just tapping our canes on the pavement in the fog. A dose of humility would do us good in the present moment. It might also help reconcile us to the radical uncertainty in which we are always living. Let us retire our prophets and augurs. And let us stop asking health specialists and public officials for confident projections they are in no position to make — and stop being disappointed when the ones we force out of them turn out to be wrong. We worsen the situation by focusing our attention on litigating the past and demanding certainty about the future. We must accept what we are, in any case, condemned to do in life: tap and step, tap and step, tap and step

Enfolded by Love

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from **Isaiah 43:18-21**

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

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 1:4-11**

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Landing in Liminal Space

Rev. Jody Betten

Offering & Offertory

"Everything New"

Jeff Spangler

(by Daniel Nahmod)

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that Love has done,
Creator Christ and Spirit one! Creator, Christ, and Spirit one.*

***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 *This We Do*

*This we do in remembrance of you,
This we do to honor you, Ohhh-
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.*

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

Creating God, always and everywhere, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Sending**

In the Midst of New Dimensions
(New Century Hymnal #391)

Benediction

Postlude

My Lord, What a Morning
(Traditional Spiritual, arr by Howard Helvey)
Rebecca Russcher

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
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>

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We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
 all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
 all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.