



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 24, 2022

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 *Morning Has Broken*
Piano Duet: Peter Black and Adelle Van Daalen

(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) *Arise, Shine*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of our God has risen upon you like the sun.
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.*

Call to Worship

Reader: Dan Mack

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,**

In the Garden

(Black New Century Hymnal No.237)

(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. Let us pray for: recycling and moderate personal consumption. Let us pray for: proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Help us, O Creator, to live in harmony, safety and just-sharing of resources among all so that we can help bring about your kingdom 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** *Draw the Circle Wide*

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

(repeat after verse)

Words of Integration & 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 5:27-32

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 Benefit of Doubt"

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *Stepping Out on the Arms of Faith*
Pamela Chappell
Composer: Pamela Chappell

The Benefit of Doubt

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology** *Give Thanks to the Lord*

**Give thanks to the Lord for God is good, and God's mercy shall endure.
For God alone has done marv'ulous things, give thanks unto the Lord.
God made the earth and heaven with a strong and mighty hand.
God has moved us to sing, proclaim this song! Give thanks unto 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** *Patriquin*

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is the One who comes, who come in God's name. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

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

Always and Everywhere

***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**

Now the Green Blade Rises

(Black New Century Hymnal No.238)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Piano Duet: Peter Black and Adelle Van Daalen

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www.douglasucc.org

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

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

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EASTER

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I Come to the Garden Alone

(In the Garden)

John 20:14-18

C. Austin Miles, 1912

1 I come to the gar-den a-lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar-den with him, though the night a-round me be

ros-es; And the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear, the
 sing-ing; And the mel-o-dy that he gave to me with-
 fall-ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his

Refrain
 Son of God dis-clos-es.
 in my heart is ring-ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call-ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the

joy we share as we tar-ry there, none oth-er has ev-er known.

Now the Green Blade Rises

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*John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.**Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12*


1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain



Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

*John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of
 Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient*

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
French noel, 15th century

