



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 28, 2024

Fifth 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 comfortable doing so.**

Congregational Responses in Bold

"Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name."

—Jaroslav Pelikan, American scholar, Christian historian, theologian

Ringling in the Hour & Lighting of Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *There is Room for All*

***There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing "My refuge and my rock in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all.***

Call to Worship

Psalm 23 adapted from enfleshed.com

Reader: Wayne Titus

One: All is not lost. It must not be.

Many: *There are children. There are wildflowers.*

One: Love creeps into our lives like vines rooting into our hearts, the ways of liberation.

Many: *We are interconnected, branches of the same corner of the universe,*

One: Reaching for sunlight, yearning for transformation, tenderly caring for all that longs to live.

Many: *Let us worship God – Our Sunlight, Our Salvation, Our Ancient Ever New Hope.*

Opening Hymn

We Have Been Told

(Gather Hymnal #699)

(See music at the end of this document)

Unison Prayer

Psalm 23 adapted from enfleshed.com

Holy One, as the sellers of propaganda invest in our separation and our resignation, we long to remain steadfast in our connection to one another. May compassion be the soil from which we grow, our care for each other as tender as seedlings. While some treat life as expendable, cultivate in us the fruits of your spirit – grow us in love, joy, peace, and patience. Even as we grieve the destabilizing of the seasons, may we be as faithful in our solidarity – like plants intertwining our roots underground. 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

**Richard Rohr, white, American, Franciscan priest, writer,
founder of Center for Action and Contemplation**

It's possible to trace the movement of Christianity from its earliest days until now. In Israel, Jesus and the early "church" offered people an experience. It moved to Greece, and became a philosophy. When it moved to Rome and Constantinople, it became organized religion. Then it spread to Europe, and it became a culture. Finally, it moved to North America and became a business.

Abiding in Love

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from **Psalm 22:25-31**
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to **John 15:1-9**
All: Glory to you, O Christ.
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Destined to Repeat a History We Don't Know
Rev. Jody Betten

Offering & Offertory

Remain in Me, I Am the Vine
Jeff Spangler
by Curtis Stephan and Steve Angrisano

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.
(please be seated)*

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.*
(Please stand.)

***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**

No Longer Strangers
(Gather Hymnal #734)

Benediction

Postlude

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
(arr by Mark Hayes)
Peter Black

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>

699 We Have Been Told

Refrain

We have been told, we've seen his face, and
 heard his voice a - live in our hearts;
 "Live in my love with all your heart,
 as the Fa - ther has loved me, so I have loved
 you."

Verse 1

1. "I am the vine, you are the branch-es, and all who
 live in me will bear great fruit." **D.C.**

Verses 2, 3

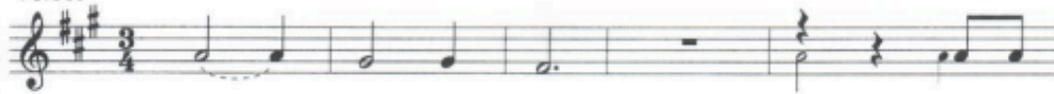
2. "You are my friends, if you keep my com - mands,
 3. "No great-er love is there than this: to
 no long - er slaves, I call you friends."
 lay down one's life, for a friend." **D.C.**

Text: David Haas, b.1957

Tune: David Haas, b.1957; vocal arr. by David Haas, b.1957; Mario Hannon, b.1950

No Longer Strangers 734

Verses



1. We once were lost; with-out
 2. We once were cut off; but now
 3. We who once were dead, now we



hope, with - out God; but now in Christ
 we are brought near, for Christ is our
 live in the light, we fol - low Christ



Je - sus, we have been found!
 peace, we were bro - ken, now whole! One
 Je - sus, a - bun - dant in grace! Who



Saved by the prom-ise of God!
 spir - it, one Bod - y of Christ!
 saved us, who raised us to life!

Refrain



No long - er stran-gers, no long-er lost and a - lone!



No long - er stran-gers, now we are saints! We are



one in the house of God!