



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

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 *Metta Prayer*

Peter Black with Lauri Donaldson

(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: John Willming

One: Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Hope is alive!

Many: Hope is alive, indeed!

One: New life is on its way!

Many: New life is on its way, indeed!

One: God's love is eternal.

Many: Let's us give thanks for all God has done for us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

(Black New Century Hymnal No.233)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Blessing of the Palms

O God of Easter Joy, we come this morning with glad shouts of acclamation. The Light of the Christ has risen in our hearts and in our lives. May this time of worship together help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ. May we be transformed into your Easter people, shining your Light throughout the earth with messages of beauty, hope, abundance and life. 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

By Derek Miller

As a Progressive Christian, I have always had quite a few unanswered questions about the event that is commonly known as Easter. Growing up in a conservative household, I was raised to believe that Easter meant a literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus that occurred on the third day after he gave himself up to be executed for the sins of the world. Although I had long ago dismissed the theory that Jesus died for the sins of the world, it wasn't until I read Rev. John Shelby Spong's book, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, that I became convinced that a physical resurrection of Jesus had never taken place at all. Spong argues that the resurrection stories are heavily symbolic and must not (along with the rest of the Gospels) be taken literally. Spong's rendering of Easter is not about believing in incongruent stories that have been disproved by the laws of science. Easter, he says, is about realizing that Jesus is the meaning of God. It is Easter that caused the disciples to travel back to Jerusalem six months after Jesus' death to proclaim that "Christ is risen!" and "Death cannot contain his Spirit!" Easter also caused the need for early Christian writers to capture the sentiments in subjective, non-literal words so that we, too, can enter the text and experience the moment anew every day. We, too, can proclaim that Jesus lives on in each one of us as Easter becomes a timeless invitation to enter the meaning of God by living for others, expecting no reward, and loving wastefully no matter what the cost. When we do that, we are Easter people and resurrection becomes real. Very real.

Resurrection Joy

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Acts 10:34-43

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 20:1-18

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Resurrection is Real” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

Arise, O Church, Arise

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black,

accompanied by Lauri Donaldson

Composers: Jeremy Camp/Jason Ingram

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**

In the Garden

(Black New Century Hymnal No.237)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Ode to Joy

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>

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

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.