



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, August 11, 2024

• Order of Service •

“Let the one who cannot be alone beware of community... Let the one who is not in community beware of being alone...”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian,
anti-Nazi dissident

Lighting of Candles & Ringing the Bell

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music *For All the Children (congregation joins Cantor after verse)*

*O may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God, there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.*

Call to Worship

Where is the liberating God inviting us today?

Where is gracious Love luring us in this hour?

Where is Spirit longing to meet us?

Where are our collaborative efforts needed?

Where can we create with one another places of joy and healing?

The Holy meets us in ordinary acts of compassion.

The Holy plots with us toward delight.

The Holy rejoices when we co-create hope.

May we meet God here today,

And be renewed in our ability to see where God is calling us.

***Opening Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other/Insert*

Opening Prayer by Madeline L'Engle (adapted)

There is too much pain I cannot understand, I cannot pray... The ugly man with beery breath beside me reminds me that it is not my prayers that waken your concern, oh God. My prayers are not to ask for your love for all your lost and lonely ones, your wondering souls, but for my love, my acceptance of your love. Your love for the woman sticking her umbrella and her expensive parcels into my ribs and snarling, "Why don't you watch where you're going?" Your love for the gum-chewing boy who shoves the old lady aside to grab a seat. Your love for me, too, too tired to look with love, too tired to look at Love, at you, in every person on the bus. Expand my love, God, so I can help to bear the pain. Help your love move my love into the tired prostitute with false eyelashes and bunioned feet, the corrupt policeman with his hand open for graft, the addict, the derelict, the woman in the mink coat and discontented mouth, the high school girl with heavy books and frightened eyes. Help me through these scandalous particulars to understand your love. Help me to pray.

Assurance of Grace & Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

***Passing the Peace** *No Matter*

*No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are in the
journey*

of life, you're welcome, welcome in this place.

*No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on the
journey*

of life, accepted, welcomed by God's grace. (repeat after verse)

Words of Integration & Guidance

Turning to One Another by Margaret Wheatley, female, writer,
management consultant

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking. Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams. Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters. Talk to people you know. Talk to people you don't know. Talk to people you never talk to. Be intrigued by the differences you hear. Expect to be surprised. Treasure curiosity more than certainty. Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible. Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something. Know that creative solutions come from new connections. Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know. Real listening always brings people closer together. Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world. Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

• We Listen and Respond to the Still-Speaking God •

A Reading from the Christian Scriptures: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

A Reading from the Gospel of John 6:35-54

Homily **Nourishing Community**
Rev. Jody Betten

Moment of Reflection

Offering & Offertory *Fly Together*
Arr. Rory and Claire Cooney
Jeff Spangler and Ryan Blok

Joys & Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God! Many: Alleluia!
One: O God, Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology** *Grateful*

*Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your holy son,
joyful in your spirit flowing over all O God of love.
Grateful for the bread of heaven, thankful for your holy word,
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise You.*

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 *Santo Santo*

*Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora.
Mi corazón te sabe decir, santo eres Dios.
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words, You are holy God.*

Preparing the Elements *We Share a Hunger*

*We share a hunger: a hunger for justice in our world,
that all may find joy, all may find wholeness, all may find peace.
We share a hunger: a hunger to feel the light of Christ
shining through us, shining on all, bringing God's reign.*

***Sharing of the Bread & Cup**

These are the gifts of God for you today!
(gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays)

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. **Amen.**

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every vision, power and song from gathering to gathering. Amen - may our future actions grow from here!

***Closing Hymn** *Shadow and Substance/New Century Hymnal #398*

Benediction

Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, your will for peace, your heart for love. -Anonymous

Postlude *Ryan Blok*

Help Us Accept Each Other

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.



1. Help us ac - cept each o - ther as Christ ac - cep - ted us;
2. Teach us, O God, your les - sons, as in our day - ly life
3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
4. God, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, bro - ther, each per - son to em - brace.
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance for righ - teous - ness and bread.



Be pre - sent, God, a - mong us, and bring us to be - live
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
To prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
Bring us new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hol - ding on;



we are our - selves ac - cep - ted and meant to love and live.
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's hea - ling art.
re - new us with your Spir - it; God, free us, make us one!



Shadow and Substance

398

Dan Damon, 1989

Gen. 1:26-27

Unison G C/G G C/G

1 Shad - ow and sub - stance, won - der and mys - ter - y,
 2 We are your im - age, formed in com - mu - ni - ty;
 3 Nam - ing the name - less Spir - it of u - ni - ty,

Bm Em7 Am7 D G C/G

spell-bind-ing spin-ner of at - oms and earth; Soul of the cos-mos,
 sis - ters and broth-ers of Ad - am and Eve. You gave us col - or,
 scan-ning the heav-ens for signs of your care; God of the a - ges,

G C/G Bm7 Em7 Am7 D7 G

per - son and en - er - gy, source of our be - ing: we sing of your worth.
 cus - tom and his - to - ry; teach us to hon - or what oth - ers re - ceive.
 give us hu - mil - i - ty; guide us to mys - ti - cal un - ion in prayer.

This hymn by writer and composer Dan Damon exemplifies one of the goals he has articulated about his work: "To keep things simple and singable while at the same time exploring the edges of our spoken and sung faith."

Tune: TWILIGHT 5.6.10.D.
 Dan Damon, 1989