



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

# Order of Service

for Sunday, August 18, 2024

“God is not an ‘I told you so’ kind of God. God is a ‘Come here. Welcome home. I love you.’ kind of God.”

-Wisdom written on a stranger’s T-shirt

## **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**

We worship a God who releases people from captivity.  
**From chains of our own making or those placed upon us.**

It does not matter how we got here or how long it has been.  
**In this place we are no longer strangers, but friends.**

Here those without hope are nourished with possibility.  
**The complacent are transformed into advocates for change.**

Everyone has a place and no one is turned away.  
**In our midst and at this table, God is here.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky/New Century Hymnal #563*

## **Opening Prayer**

**Assist us, Spirit within and beyond, to live calmly in the present and hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us set unnecessary fears and apprehensions aside. May we recognize our potential for creative responses to all that stands in front of us as an obstacle or a challenge. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new,” and to guard against our own defensiveness. As we remember and celebrate former times, keep us from unreasonable longings for them to return. For we know you have something new for us on the horizon. Amen.**

## **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**

From *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, by  
Fr. Gregory Boyle

Only kinship — inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless. At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away.

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

**A Reading from the Christian Scriptures: Psalm 146/See Insert**

**A Reading from the Gospel of 1 Kings 8:41-43**

**Homily**                      **The No-Matter-Whatness of God's Welcome**  
Rev. Dan Plasman

**Moment of Reflection**

**Offering & Offertory**      *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
*Arr. Mark Hayes*  
Bob Ruddy

**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** *O For a World/New Century Hymnal #575*

## **Benediction**

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

**Postlude** *Praise to the Lord (arr. Larry Shackley), Bob Ruddy*

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