



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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 *Close Every Door (Andrew Lloyd Weber)*

Peter Black

(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) *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)

Call to Worship

Psalm 67

Reader: Rev. Fred Hamlin

One: O God, be gracious to us and bless us.

Many: Make your face shine upon us, O God.

One: May your ways be known upon the earth.

Many: May your saving power be known among all nations.

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Many: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

One: May God continue to bless us.

Many: Let all the ends of the earth give praise to God. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

There Are Some Things I May Not Know
(Black New Century Hymnal No.405)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, help us to persist in prayer and in faith. Help us to pray with the spirit of resolve and persistence. Help us to break through our fears and our doubts. Help us to make contact with the power of the Most High which is Your presence within us. No matter how discouraging appearances may be, help us to never give up, because with your support, O God, we can accomplish great things. 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

The Peace of Christ is Yours

Reach out your hands, accept the gift.

Reach out your hands, accept the gift.

*Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the Peace of Christ is yours!*

And it is free, free, free.

And it is free, free, free.

And it is free, free, free.

The Peace of Christ is Yours!

Words of Integration & Guidance

by Rev. Ed Townley

Many traditional Christians believe that Jesus was always the same throughout his human incarnation—always loving, always perfect, always fully aware of his role as the Christ of God in expression. In fact, though, the Gospels only make sense if understand that they show us a Jesus who learned more about his divine nature as his ministry unfolded—a Jesus who was as fully human as the rest of us, which means capable of error, and of learning from those errors how to more fully express the Christ. In today's gospel story, Jesus does indeed, at first, refuse to help the Canaanite (non-Jewish) woman whose daughter is troubled. At that point, his understanding of his own spiritual purpose is that he is to confine his ministry to his fellow Jews. However, the mother's persistence forces him to see things differently. He realizes that she is right, and he is wrong. Or rather, that he is limiting his own spiritual power unnecessarily. From that point on, he no longer worries about whether the people seeking his help are Jews or not. He realizes that they are all children of God, and that is enough. God is not a being who picks and chooses which people to love. God is the very Power of infinite, eternal Love. If it is ever denied or withheld, it's because we're doing that—not because God is.

Bold Moves

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Genesis 37:4-12

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

Many: ***Thanks be to God.***

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

Many: ***Glory to you, O Christ.***

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

Many: ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Homily

"Persistent Faith," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

The Impossible Dream

Pete Wehle and Peter Black

Composers: Joe Darion and Mitch Leigh

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 will endure.***

***For God alone has done marv'lous 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 the 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** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

*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 comes, in God's name.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *There is Room for All*

*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all at the table of God's love.*

And I exalt and sing "We do this in remembrance of you."

There is room for all, there is room for all.

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.*

***Hymn of Sending**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
(*Black New Century Hymnal No.42*)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (Ken Medema)
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>

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There Are Some Things I May Not Know

(Yes, God Is Real)

Kenneth Morris, 1942; alt.

Unison

1 There are some things I may not know, there are some
 2 Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn, all can de -
 3 I can - not tell just how you felt when Je - sus

plac - es I can't go, But I am sure of this one
 sert and leave me a - lone, But as for me I'll take God's
 took your sins a - way, But since that day, yes, since that

thing, that God is real for I can feel God deep with - in.
 part, for God is real and I can feel God in my heart.
 hour, God has been real for I can feel God's ho - ly power.

Refrain

Yes, God is real, real in my soul; yes, God is real for God has

washed and made me whole: God's love for me is like pure
gold, yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.