



DOUGLAS UCC

A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, August 25, 2024

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day,
I can hear her breathing.”

— Arundhati Roy

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 *We Gather in Love*

*We come to gather in our weakness, to reconnect as seekers,
and worship one true God.*

*We come to light our lives on fire, with mercy we inspire, we
gather all as one.*

*United in one Spirit, each diff'rent in appearance,
all are welcome in the house of God. We gather in love.*

Call to Worship

One: Come, let us put on the garments of the Holy!

Right: Truth-telling—	Left: Even when decorum expects silence.
Right: Righteousness—	Left: We will be courageous in our care for one another.
Right: Peace—	Left: Not the absence of tension but the presence of Justice.
Right: Faith—	Left: Because together, all is not lost.
Right: Salvation—	Left: We seek the reign of God in ordinary acts of love.

All: May Divine Wisdom clothe us in blessings.

***Opening Hymn** *This Day God Gives Me/Insert*

Opening Prayer

Guiding Love, connect with us through spiritual practices—breath, movement, song, prayer, touch. Commune with us through rituals—when we light candles or dip our hands in water. Accompany us that we might be a people grounded in compassion; tuned in to the ways of redemption. In a world of overwhelm, bless us with hope like a crown of wildflowers placed upon our heads. In this time and place may we attend to our hearts and minds; so that as we go, we may touch the world with joy and peace. May it be so.

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** *Spirit Fill Me*

*Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.
Help me give my hand to those in need,
let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love,
we can work together to heal this broken world.
Spirit come and fill us, fill us with your peace,
fill us with your joy and your love,
Spirit come and show us, show us how to care,
show us how to share your light.*

Words of Integration & Guidance

Rev. John Buchanan, white, male, protestant minister

Most of us know what our battles are about, the small wars we wage: the daily struggle with the hurried, frantic busyness of our lives; our captivity to our possessions; slavery to success and winning at all costs. Some battle crushing poverty, and some contend with crushing affluence. Some battle addiction, real addiction. Some battle demons of self-doubt and guilt; some battle memories of broken relationships; some battle depression. And some are in a life-and-death struggle with disease, mustering the courage to get out of bed and go to the radiation lab at 7:00 a.m. and do battle another day. We can't, most of us can't, choose our particular circumstances in life. But we can choose how to live, what resources to employ, which arsenal to engage.

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

A Reading from the Christian Scripture, Ephesians 6:10-20

A Reading from the Gospel of John 6:56-59

Homily **What Does Armor Look Like for the
People of Love?**
Rev. Jody Betten

Moment of Reflection

Offering & Offertory *Meditation*
Peter Black

Joys & Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

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

***Doxology** *Song of Praise*

*Creator of this great land we adore you.
Renewer of your people hear our praise.
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise,
Continue to be present in life-giving ways, Great 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, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is the One who comes in God's name,
Hosanna in the highest.*

Preparing the Elements *Eat of This Bread*

*Eat of this Bread, drink of this wine;
Come and be fed, come now and dine.
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
here all are fed, here all may dine.*

***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** *God Be With You/New Century Hymnal #81*

Benediction

Postlude *God's Eye Is On the Sparrow, 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>

This Day God Gives Me

Opening Hymn

James Quinn

1. This day God gives me
2. This day God sends me,
3. God's way is my way,

5
Strength of high hea - ven, Sun and moon
Strength to sus - tain me, Might to up -
God's shield is 'round me, God's host de -

9
shi - ning, Flame in my hearth, _____
hold me, Wis - dom as guide, _____
fends me, Sa - ving from ill, _____

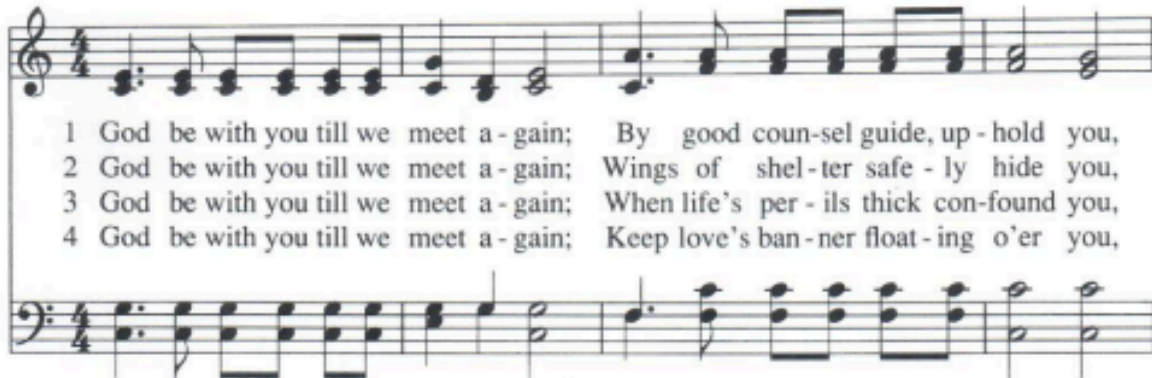
14
Flash - ing of light - ning, wind in its
Your eyes are watch - ful, your ears are
An - gels of hea - ven, drive from me

18
swift - ness, Depths of the o - cean,
list' - ning, Your lips are speak - ing,
al - ways, All that would harm me,

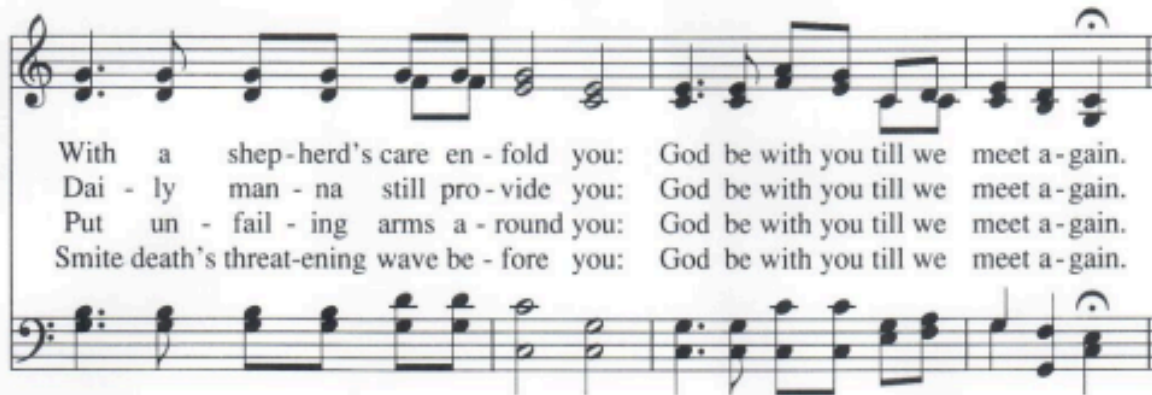
23
Firm - ness of earth. _____
Friend at my side. _____
Stand by me still. _____

God Be with You

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.

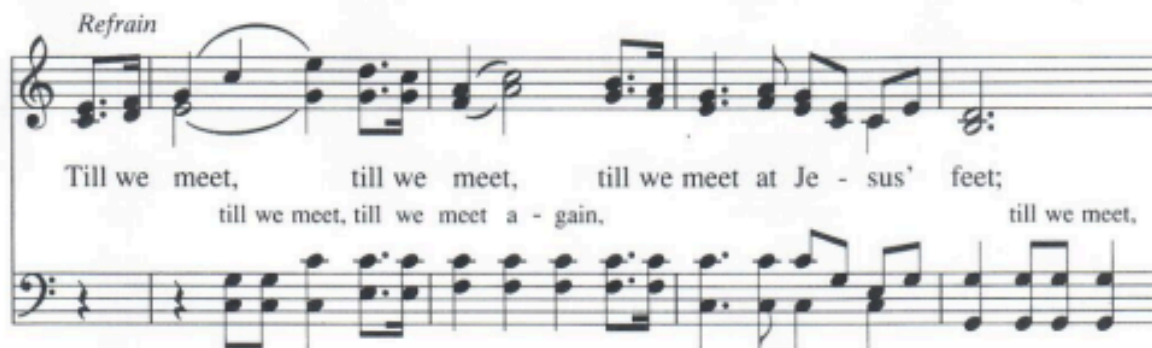


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,