



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, August 27, 2023

Thirteenth 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 *As a Deer/Give Me Jesus*

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 138

Reader: Stan Greene

One: I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart.

Many: I sing your praise and give thanks to your name.

One: For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

Many: On the day I called, you answered me. You strengthened my soul.

One: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Many: They shall sing of your ways, for great is the glory of God.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies.

Many: You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

One: You will fulfill your purpose for me, O God.

Many: Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

(Black New Century Hymnal No.403)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, the faith of Jesus is the faith to which we aspire. Let us, as did Jesus, acknowledge the Truth of Your Divine Power within us. Let us, as did Jesus, acknowledge Your unconditional love for us. Let us, as did Jesus, acknowledge Your willingness to bestow on us "life to the full": prosperity, success, happiness, joy, peace, and wisdom. May our faith be as strong as the faith of Jesus. 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

from the book "The Quest" by Mary-Alice and Richard Jafolla

Who was Jesus, and why has he had more of an impact on humanity than any other person who ever lived? He wrote no great books and created no important works of art. He never commanded a powerful army, and he never ruled so much as a tiny nation. His death caused scarcely a ripple, other than among the relatively few followers he had attracted during his short public life. If a time machine could take us back to the hills of Nazareth at the time of Jesus' childhood, we might see a young boy who looked and acted the same as any other boy his age. It's likely that he caught colds, had stomach aches, got angry, and worried about his studies. He probably attended Hebrew school in his hometown with all the other boys. However, no matter where or what he studied, his real learning came not from any outer reading or lectures but from an inner knowing. At some point, a great revelation came to this seemingly ordinary youth. He may not have grasped it totally at first, but there came a time in his spiritual growth when he was aware of the extraordinary power within him. At that moment, Jesus of Nazareth, the carpenter's son, began his quest for Jesus "the Christ." When we study Jesus' life, we see a perfect example for us to follow. After all, was there ever anyone whose words and actions so exuded love? Was there ever anyone more at peace with himself and with life? Business students study the lives of great entrepreneurs. Actors study other great actors, and writers read other great writers. It is only natural that many on a spiritual quest turn to the study of Jesus' life and teachings. Many of these people call themselves Christians, but the word Christian is not important. The objective is to reconnect with the divinity within—to find God. Our ultimate purpose is to experience the presence of God daily. If we do that, everything will be all right

Be Transformed

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Romans 12:1-8

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 16: 13-20

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Who was the real Jesus?" Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

Peter Black

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**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
(Black New Century Hymnal No.506)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Rock of Ages
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>

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

right-teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -


Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.


all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

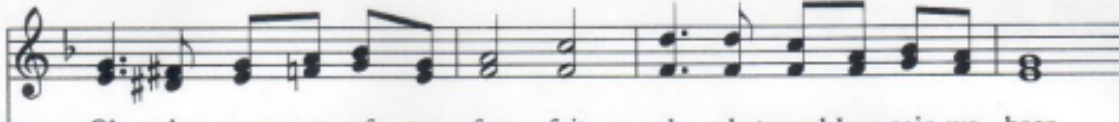
Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.