



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace

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.**

Congregational Responses in Bold

Prelude *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted (Handel)*

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) *Lighting of Advent Candle*

*A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.*

Call to Worship

adapted from Isaiah 2, Romans 13

Reader: Jerry Coates

One: The voice of one cries out in the wilderness;

Many: Get ready! Prepare for the Way of God!

One: Turn away from despair and hopelessness;

Many: Get ready! Prepare for the Way of God!

One: Make way for the Light coming into the world;

Many: Get ready! Prepare for the Way of God!

One: Come, live in the way of love and peace.

Many: Get ready! Prepare for the Way of God! Amen.

Opening Hymn *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore (v1-4)*
(Black New Century Hymnal No.115)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for peace, as a sign of the approaching sunrise, a reminder that we are called to prepare the way for peace. Place your deep peace within us that we may help to make a way, risking peace each day, for your sake, and For the sake of your Kingdom of Peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and the Holy Spirit who guides us. 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

Lord, Listen to Your Children

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord send your spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.***

(repeat after verse)

Words of Integration & Guidance

Rev. Crystal St. Marie Lewis

I had been taught that Jesus was uniquely God, and that humans lacked the capacity to achieve such a powerful union with the Divine. This perspective had made Jesus so unlike me that I could hardly relate to him at all. It wasn't until I realized that Jesus would likely not buy into the Christian tradition's effort to turn him into a superman of sorts. He himself said that those who follow his example would do "greater things" than what had been recorded about him in the Gospels. I began to view the incarnation story as "myth," which Saint Stephanus described as "something that never occurred, but is always happening" — and I found that the incarnation was more powerful for me than ever when read as myth. The incarnation is a process that we can all participate in. When we do justice, act mercifully, stand up for the truth and fight to free the oppressed, those are acts of incarnation. Those acts are acts of embodied love, and where there is love, there is God. I no longer view Christmas as a commemoration of the day when a cosmic superman came to Earth. I now understand Advent as a time of renewed focus and commitment to the lifestyle exhibited by Jesus. During Advent, I try to determine if the Spirit of God is found in the way I live my life. Am I bringing justice, healing, mercy, love and acceptance to the world? And more importantly — Am I standing for truth? The story of God "coming down" to Earth reminds me that this world matters. For me, the narrative about Jesus being "born of a virgin" is now a symbol for how the Creator's will for justice and mercy can be carried out by people of all walks of life, regardless of their social status, gender or age. And the miracles remind me that anything is possible in a world where people are willing to unselfishly empty themselves. I find this understanding of the incarnation more life-giving than any Christian doctrine I have ever known, and I am grateful for the change in perspective.

Prepare Ye The Way

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 40:1-11

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Calling"

Rev. David VanDyke

Offering

& Offertory Song

This Is Your Justice

Jeff Spangler, Lauri Donaldson, and Peter Black

Composer: Craig Colson

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

***Doxology**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator Christ and Spirit One.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, O come to us Emmanuel.

***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** *Sanctus for Advent*

Holy, Holy, God Almighty.

Heav'n and earth your praises sing!

Shout Hosannas to the Savior.

Blessing, honor to the king!

In the name of the Lord, the bearer of light,

triumphs o'er the dark of night,

evermore and ever more!

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *This is the Body of Christ*

This is the body of Christ.

Broken that we may be whole;

this cup as promised by God,

true to the Word, cradles our Lord.

Food for the good of the soul.

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**

When Peace, Like a River
(Black New Century Hymnal No.438)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Comfort, Comfort O My People
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>

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

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*Charles Coffin, 1736**Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993**John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8;**Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12*

1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the
 2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that
 3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for
 4 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -

earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y
 which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing
 God ap - proach-es day by day; Pre - pare for such a
 va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we

sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!
 in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.
 wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.
 fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.

5 Your hands ex-tend, our pain em-brace,
 lift up the pros-trate, show your face;
 Though we in part your beau-ty know,
 O blos-som forth, your splen-dor show.

6 O One who comes to set us free,
 O Child, to you our song will be,
 With Fa-ther, Spir-it moth-er-ing,
 to you shall praise for-ev-er ring!

When Peace, Like a River

(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain
 taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's...