



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, December 11, 2022**

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

**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**     *And the Glory of the Lord*  
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)

*A candle is burning, a candle of Joy.  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder our eyes light and glow,  
as Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

## **Call to Worship**

Isaiah 12:2-6

Reader: Lynne Snyder

One: Surely God is my refuge; I will trust and will not be afraid;

**Many: For God is my strength and my might; God has become my rescue.**

One: With joy, I draw water from the inner well of liberty.

**Many: With joy, I give thanks to God and call upon God's name.**

One: I sing praises to God, for God has done glorious things in me;

**Many: Let this be known in all the earth. Make known God's deeds among the nations.**

All: Let us shout aloud and sing with great joy;

**Many: For great in our midst is the Holy One. Rejoice, for God is near.**

## **\*Opening Hymn,**

*Morning Hymn*

(Green Gather Hymnal No.2)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Unison Prayer**

**Source of all light and love, today, on this third Sunday of Advent, we light a pink candle for joy. As we anticipate the Light of the World, draw us more deeply to this Season of Advent. Help us to claim joy daily, as those who are welcoming the Christ child. We light these candles as reminders of the everlasting joy of the Advent story. We pray in the name of the One who is the good news of great joy for all people. 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 peace.*

*(repeat after verse)*

## **Words of Integration & Guidance**

**Rev. Kathryn M. Matthew, UCC Pastor**

There are undoubtedly many folks in our pews this week who are beginning to wonder about this whole season of Advent. The contrast between the tenor of our lectionary readings and the mood of the holidays is stark: the baby is already in the manger of many Nativity sets, the decorations are already hung, and Christmas carols are in the air. Why, then, is the church making us listen (two weeks in a row!) to stories about John the Baptist? This wide-eyed preacher in the wilderness boldly proclaimed a message of challenge and exhortation. In his day, the powers-that-be had arranged a world based on empire, with those at the top grabbing the lion's share of power and material wealth for themselves. However, it wasn't just the Roman Empire that experienced his wrath, but the religious institutions also felt the sting of John's rebuke, for things were all out-of-whack, they had gone awry, or, as Richard Swanson so evocatively puts it, the world was being held "upside-down" by the ones on top. John calls the people to prepare for what they had been waiting for all these years: that change was coming, that the Light was on its way. And, to prepare for its arrival, John gives the people simple instructions: "Don't hoard. Share with one another. Be fair. Don't fight. Be kind to one another." The heart of his message is that basic goodness and justice will knock the supports out from under every upside-down, oppressive structure and system that we've built. Many of us today are overwhelmed by the magnitude of world events which seem as large and powerful to us as the Roman Empire must have seemed to Jewish peasants. John's sermon about personal generosity and social justice should call each and every one of us today to prepare ourselves for the new world that is on its way. That is the hope that sustains us, the vision toward which we work, and the good news which we proclaim. Is it no wonder then that we live in joy, as well?

# Heartbeat of Justice

## The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from James 5:7-10

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 11:2-11

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

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

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

## Homily

“The Earth is Singing,” **Rev. Ginny Mikita**

## Offering & Offertory

*Center of My Joy*

**Stan Greene**

Composers: Gill Gaither, Gloria Gaither,  
and Richard Smallwood

## Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: **Alleluia!**

One: O God,

Many: **Hear our prayer.**

**\*Doxology** *Give Thanks*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.***

***Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ the son.***

***And now let the weak say "I am strong." Let the poor say "I am rich,"***

***Because of what the Lord has done. Give Thanks.***

## **\*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** Isaiah 6:3

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts,  
Heav'n and earth are full of Thee,  
Heav'n and earth are praising Thee,  
O Lord most high.*

*(Please be seated)*

## **Breaking of the Bread** *Walk in the Reign*

*Close as tomorrow the sun shall appear.  
Freedom is coming, and healing is near.  
And I shall be with you in laughter and pain,  
to stand in the wind, and walk in the reign,  
to walk in the reign.*

## **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.  
Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Sending**      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*  
(Green Gather Hymnal No. 528)  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *I've Got That Joy?*  
**Peter Black**

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community  
and the work of our service groups here:

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)  
<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>  
<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>  
<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

## 2 MORNING HYMN



1. Sing your joy, pro - claim God's glo - ry!  
 2. All the earth is filled with re - joic - ing,  
 3. May we learn to be - come your King - dom.  
 4. Light our way, O God of the liv - ing,



Rise and sing, the morn - ing has come!  
 Light and life the won - der of God!  
 May we be your kind - ness and truth!  
 May we learn to see with new eyes!



Bless our God and praise all cre - a - tion;  
 Christ has tri - umphed! Ris - en for ev - er!  
 Love is our call - ing, gift of your pres - ence;  
 Je - sus the Lord, our pow - er and prom - ise;



Song of the earth, and light from heav - en:  
 Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dream - ing:  
 Chil - dren of God, and spir - it of Je - sus:  
 Light for the blind, and food for the hun - gry:



God is a - live! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God is a - live! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God is a - live! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God is a - live! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You 528



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry,  
 2. All your works with joy sur-round you, Earth and heav'n re -  
 3. Al - ways giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing,  
 4. Mor - tals join the might - y cho - rus, Which the morn - ing



Lord of love; Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you,  
 flect your rays, Stars and an - gels sing a - round you,  
 ev - er blest, Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing,  
 stars be - gan; God's own love is reign - ing o'er us,



Open - ing to the sun a - bove. Melt the clouds of  
 Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise; Field and for - est,  
 O - cean depth of hap - py rest! Lov - ing Fa - ther,  
 Join - ing peo - ple hand in hand. Ev - er sing - ing,



sin and sad - ness; Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Christ our broth - er, Let your light up - on us shine;  
 march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day!  
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Prais - ing you e - ter - nal - ly!  
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.  
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.



