



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, December 18, 2022

Fourth 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 *Mary Did You Know?*

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 Love.

A candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth.

For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

Call to Worship

Reader: Kathleen Mueller

One: Mary said, "My soul magnifies God and my spirit rejoices in God,

Many: For God has looked with favor on me.

One: Surely, from now on, all generations will call me blessed;

Many: For God has done great things for me and holy is God's name.

One: God has lifted up the lowly;

Many: God has filled the hungry with good things.

One: My soul magnifies God and my spirit rejoices in God,

Many: For God has looked with favor on me. Holy is God's name."

***Opening Hymn,**

Canticle of the Turning

(Green Gather Hymnal No. G556)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Source of all light and love, today, on this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love. Thank you, God, for the flame of love. As we anticipate the Light of the World, help us to share your love with others. We light these candles as reminders of the everlasting love of the Christmas story. We pray in the name of the one who is the good news of great love 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. Dawn Hutchings

The popular image of Mary paints her as the ideal woman that none of us could ever live up to, that of both virgin and mother, meek and mild, obedient and perfect. She is impossible as a role model and totally unreal. But, Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, reveals her to be very real and quite revolutionary. The Magnificat is a song Mary sings, but the radical nature of this song has been lost as successive generations have prettied it up as best they can. The Magnificat is a song of revolution which proclaims the downfall of the prevailing order. The Magnificat is a rallying cry to overturn the established order, a tune intended to rouse the troops. The church has told the story of Mary in its own particular way for centuries, holding up the image of the perfect woman, both virgin and mother. That image may have suited the purposes of an institution that had a vested interest in having women behave in a certain way, but the time has come to tell Mary's story differently. For in a world where over half the population is still oppressed, isn't it time to hear the story of God told in ways that liberate and empower? Isn't it time to hear Mary's story told in ways that proclaim God's plan for justice? We can re-inscribe the image of Mary as the passive handmaiden of the Lord, or we can tell the story of Mary who with steely grit and courage struggles to raise her son as a child of God. The choice of how we read and tell Mary's story will affect how we read the whole Christian story. We, like Mary, are part of God's plan to bring down the powerful from their thrones and to lift up the lowly. Mary had the courage to say yes, to trust God. Mary had the courage to let something grow inside her. Do we have the courage to harbor Christ in our bodies? Do we have the courage to be bearers of God to the world? That's the terrifying challenge that this story offers. This story challenges us to be at God's disposal, to become filled with God's life for the sake of the world. When God sends a messenger to you, will you have the courage, like Mary, to say "Here I am, Lord. Let it be done to me according to your will"?

God With Us

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 7:10-16

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 1:18-25

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 Mary?” **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

Offering & Offertory

Christmas Lullaby

Max Brown

By Cy Coleman and Peggy Lee

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** *People Look East*
(Green Gather Hymnal No. 318)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude *Love Makes the World Go 'Round*
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>

556 Canticle of the Turning

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
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People, Look East 318



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare.
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
 5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth



Of the crown - ing of the year.
 One more seed is plant - ed there:
 Guard the nest that must be filled.
 One more light the bowl shall brim,
 Him who brings new life to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen
 Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 That in course the flow'r may flour - ish.
 He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 With the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple look East and sing to - day:



Love the Guest is on the way.
 Love the Rose is on the way.
 Love the Bird is on the way.
 Love the Star is on the way.
 Love the Lord is on the way.