



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love!

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

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:

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.

Advent Candle Song

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, *Wake, O Wake and Sleep No Longer

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 335)

(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** *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 by 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"?

Moving With Mary's Song

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Micah 5:2-5

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 1:46-55

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily "Moving with Mary's Song," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *"Joy in My Heart"*
Pamela Chappell
Composer: Pamela Chappell

Rejoice! God is Near!

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 shall 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 this 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** *Sanctus (Patriquin)*

*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 high – est!*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

Light is On its Way!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & 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

Have a great week! 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>

335 Wake, O Wake, and Sleep No Longer



1. Wake, O wake, and sleep no long - er, For
 2. Zi - on hears the sound of sing - ing; Our
 3. Glo - ry, glo - ry, sing the an - gels, While



he who calls you is no stran - ger: A -
 hearts are thrilled with sud - den long - ing: She
 mu - sic sounds from strings and cym - bals; All



wake, God's own Je - ru - sa - lem! Hear, the mid - night
 stirs, and wakes, and stands pre - pared. Christ, her friend, and
 hu - man - kind, with songs a - rise! Twelve the gates in -



bells are chim - ing The sig - nal for his roy - al com -
 lord, and lov - er, Her star and sun and strong re - deem -
 to the cit - y, Each one a pearl of shin - ing beau -



ing: Let voice to voice an - nounce his name! We
 er— At last his might - y voice is heard. The
 ty; The streets of gold ring out with praise. All



feel his foot - steps near, The Bride - groom at the door—
 Son of God has come To make with us his home:
 crea - tures round the throne A - dore the ho - ly One

ADVENT



Al - le - lu - ia! The lamps will shine With light di - vine
Sing Ho - san - na! The fight is won, The feast be - gun;
With re - joic - ing: A - men be sung By ev - 'ry tongue



As Christ the sav - ior comes to reign.
We fix our eyes on Christ a - lone.
To crown their wel - come to the King.

Text: Matthew 25:1-13; *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. and adapt. by Christopher Idle, b. 1938, © 1982, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: WACHET AUF, 89 8 89 8 66 4 44 8; Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; harm. by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

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.