



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, December 25, 2022**

## **Christmas Morning!**

**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**

**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)

**O Little Town of Bethlehem (NC 133)**

*O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shines forth, the everlasting light, The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above. While mortals sleep and angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth. And praises sing and voices ring with peace to all on earth.*

## **Call to Worship**

**Psalm 96**

**Reader: Julie Ridl**

One: O sing to God a new song; sing to God, all the earth.

**Many: Sing to God, bless God's holy name.**

One: Declare God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

**Many: For great is God, and greatly to be praised.**

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

**Many: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.**

One: O sing to God a new song; sing to God, all the earth.

**Many: Sing to God, bless God's holy name. Amen.**

## **\*Opening Hymn,**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

(Green Gather Hymnal No.348)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Unison Prayer**

Loving God, on this Christmas Day, I remember how angels sang, proclaiming the wondrous birth; and I hear the angels' songs of joy within my soul, proclaiming my awakening to love and light. On this Christmas Day, I remember how Wise Men followed the star to the manger where the Christ Child lay. On this day, I too, follow the star of Truth to the birthplace of the Christ within my heart. This is the day when Christmas happens in my heart. Your love, O God, has come into my life. I come to You and let the birth of Your Spirit take place in my heart. The gathering of family and friends, the sound of Christmas carols, the Christmas decorations, all these outer expressions of the Christmas spirit lead me to the place in my heart where You abide. Loving God, I am filled with Your Spirit; it is Christmas deep in my soul. 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**

*Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child* (NC 136)

*Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.  
New life, new hope, the child will bring,  
listen to the angels sing.  
Glory, glory glo-ry let the heavens ring. (Repeat)*

*(repeat after verse)*

**Words of Integration & Guidance**

**Swami Sivananda**

Though Christmas is celebrated as the day Jesus was born, it also symbolizes a very deeply significant truth of the spiritual life. Jesus lived and symbolized Divine Consciousness. He is the very personification of Divinity. He was born at a time when ignorance, superstition, greed, hatred and hypocrisy prevailed upon the land. Jesus, however, worked a transformation in the lives of people. Thus, a new era dawned for the world. That is the real Christmas, when the Divine element begins to express itself in the hearts of men and women. From then onward, light begins to shine where darkness was before. Ignorance gives way to the beginning of wisdom. Hatred ceases and love begins to blossom forth. If the Christ-life is to be lived, first of all, the child-Christ has to be born in us. Just as Jesus was born in a simple, lowly place, spiritual awakening comes to the seeker who is perfectly humble and meek and "poor in spirit." True humility heralds the break of the joyous new day, the advent of the new era of a life in Spirit. With the advent of this Christ-spirit within the heart of the seeker, all human desires come to an end and are replaced by pure higher Divine aspiration. You break free from your slavery of the mind and the senses. You begin to live a new life, a divine life of purity, love, humility, non-attachment and selflessness. You begin to live a life of complete faith and dependence upon God. Helping others becomes a real joy to you. You become a living witness of the Divine. All your life's activities flow from and towards God. When the Christ appears within you, then the holy Christmas takes place. Then, there is a new birth. This is the birth into a Divine Life. Harken to this significant inner message of Christmas on this blessed Christmas morning.

# **The Light is Born!**

## **The Words of Holy Scripture**

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 9:2-7

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Lesson**

One: Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:1-14 (15-20)

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

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

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

**Homily**  
Sapienza

“You Are the Light of the World” **Rev. Salvatore**

**Offering & Offertory**

*The Greatest Gift*

**Jeff Spangler and Peter Black**

Composers: Stephen Moccio, Jonas Myrin,  
and Amy Wadge

## **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** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (NC 125)

*Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply,  
echo back their joyous strains.  
Glo - - ria, in excelsis Deo,  
Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo.*

*(Please be seated)*

## **Breaking of the Bread** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (NC 131)

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heavens all gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.  
For lo the days are hastening on, by prophets long foretold.  
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold.  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world send back the song, which now the angels sing.*

## **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**      *Joy to the World*  
(Green Gather Hymnal No.343)  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**              *Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
**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>

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 348



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er -  
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



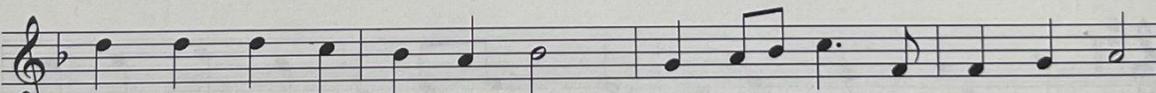
new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild  
 last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,  
 Right-eous-ness! Light and life to all he brings,



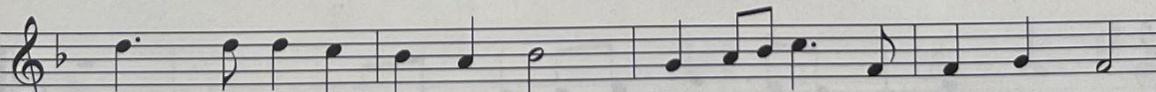
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
 Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 God-head see: Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

# 343 Joy to the World



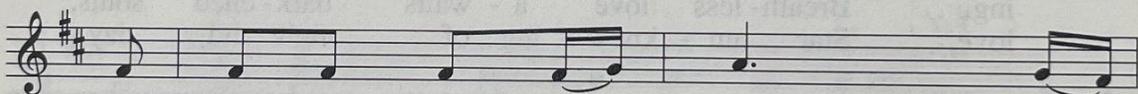
1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns:  
 3. No more let sin and sor - rows grow,  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,



Let earth re - ceive her King;  
 Let us, our songs em - ploy;  
 Nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
 And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
 He comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 Far as the curse is found, Far  
 And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 as the curse is found, Far  
 won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: ANTIOCH. CM; arr. from George F. Handel, 1685-1759, in T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833