



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope

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 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

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 flame warm and bright;

a candle of Hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky.

Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

Call to Worship

adapted from Isaiah 2, Romans 13

Reader: Mark Johnston

One: We know what time it is—the moment to wake from sleep.

Many: We awaken to greet the day, yearning for God's peace on this earth.

One: Let us lay down our swords and put aside all works of darkness.

Many: Let us walk in the light and live as peacekeepers.

One: Let us worship our God as expectant believers.

Many: We worship with joy, knowing the Christ Light will come!

One: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

Many: Let us worship in the Light of God's grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn *Wake, O Wake, and Sleep No Longer*
(Green Gather Hymnal No.335)

Unison Prayer

Prayer for Pastoral Search Committee

Loving God, we thank you for these faithful servants who have answered your call to our Pastoral Search Committee. Send your Holy Spirit upon them as they begin the sacred work of seeking the next pastor for our church. Fill them with wisdom, guidance, and patience, as they discern the workings of your Spirit. Grant them courage and strength to respond and act as you lead us. United in love, we promise to encourage them, support them, and hold them in our prayers. This we ask in all of your Holy names. 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. John Pavlovitz from his book, "Low: An Honest Advent Devotional"

Recently, I was on a flight to Albuquerque, New Mexico, when the captain announced, "Please fasten your seatbelts, because it may get a little choppy." "Choppy" is captain-speak for "we're about to get shaken." The captain was telling us matter-of-factly, "Hold on. Prepare yourselves. Turbulence is coming." This should be familiar territory for us, as it was for the first disciples. As Jesus was preparing his students for his physical absence, he says to them (and to us), "In this world, you will have trouble." In other words, "Hold on. Prepare yourselves. Turbulence is coming." But Jesus reminds us that we should not be shaken into hopelessness. He, much like the pilot of my plane, is not overwhelmed, because he has the threat right-sided. We can do the same. The question isn't whether we will be placed in the storms, but rather, how much of the turbulence we will allow to be placed within us. When we find ourselves in these storms or circumstances or troubling thoughts, we can rest in the knowledge that the things that cause our shaking, in the eyes of a God who sees and loves and accompanies us – are nothing more than a little "chop." Yes, turbulence is coming, but be not afraid. Advent is a time of hope, not hopelessness, so may hope trend in your head and reign in your heart this Advent season.

Where Are You, God?

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 64:1-9

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 13:24-37

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Hope for the Hopeless"

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering

& Offertory Song

"Whispering Hope"

Nancy Plantinga

Composer: Alice Hawthorne

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 *We Share a Hunger*

We share a hunger: a hunger for justice in our world,

that all may find joy, all may find wholeness, all may find peace.

We share a hunger: a hunger to feel the light of Christ

shining through us, shining on all, bringing God's 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.

***Hymn of Sending**

How Can I Keep From Singing?
(Green Gather Hymnal No.603)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude

I Must Tell Jesus
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>

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; *Wächet 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

How Can I Keep from Singing 603

Verses



1. My life flows on in end-less song A -
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I
 3. What though the tem - pest 'round me roar, I
 4. When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, And
 5. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion. I hear the real though
 hear that mu - sic ring - ing; It sounds and ech - oes
 hear the truth it liv - eth. What though the dark - ness
 hear their death knells ring - ing; When friends re - joice both
 foun - tain ev - er spring - ing. All things are mine since



far - off hymn That hails a new cre - a - tion.
 in my soul; How can I keep from sing - ing?
 'round me close, Songs in the night it giv - eth.
 far and near, How can I keep from sing - ing?
 I am his; How can I keep from sing - ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm, While to that rock I'm



cling - ing. Since love is Lord of heav - en and earth,



How can I keep from sing - ing?