



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, February 11, 2024**

## **Transfiguration Sunday**

**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**     *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

**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)     *Arise! Shine!*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come!*

*And the glory of our God has risen upon you like the sun.*

*Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.*

*Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.*

## **Call to Worship**

UCC.org

Reader: Stan Greene

One: Something drew us together this morning.

***Many: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship.***

One: Some holy mystery we call God.

***Many: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus.***

One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit.

***Many: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.***

One: Whether we hear a voice from heaven or a still, small voice within

***Many: We listen and believe! Thanks be to God!***

**Opening Hymn** *Be Now My Vision*

(Green Gather Hymnal No.451)

(See music at the end of this document)

## **Unison Prayer**

***God's speech called all creatures into being. We know God is still speaking, not only in Scripture or to our ancestors, but to us, today. Yet we struggle to hear. God must repeat Godself several times, sometimes. Scripture connects the voice of God with our visions of God. When we hear God's voice, we see things: Doves, angels, clouds, fire, thrones, and chariots. Bushes burn but are not consumed. A whirlwind ensues, the heavens open. Can it be that when we stop listening, God truly stops speaking? No. God wants a conversation with us so much that God's word became flesh to live among us. May we work, in turn, to hone our spiritual senses, opening to hear all that God has to say. 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**

*Passing of Peace*

*There is peace, there is hope, and it's not so far away.*

*There is peace, there is hope, and it's not so far away.*

## **Words of Integration & Guidance**

### **Marcus Borg**

The season of Epiphany comes to a close today. This season immediately precedes the season of Lent. The Epiphany season both begins and ends with stories from the Gospels in which we hear the Voice of God. On the first Sunday in Epiphany, we hear the story of the baptism of Jesus, with its climax in the Voice of God speaking to Jesus, "You are my beloved. In you I am well pleased." And then, today, on the last Sunday in Epiphany, we hear the Transfiguration story in which Jesus and the inner core of his disciples ascend to a high mountain. And this time, it is the disciples who hear the Voice of God. The Voice of God says this time, "This is my beloved son. Listen to him." The disciples, in a way, represent us in that passage. "Listen to him." Listen to Jesus. This phenomenon of the Divine Voice actually has a name in the Jewish tradition. The Hebrew phrase that names this Divine Voice is bat cole. Translated into English, bat cole means "the daughter of a sound." The Voice of God, the Divine Voice, is the daughter of a sound. And immediately after the Transfiguration story -- immediately after that Voice has said, "Listen to him" -- we get the story of Jesus' final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. The season of Lent is about listening to Jesus as he journeys from Galilee to Jerusalem. On that journey Jesus speaks about the Way -- the path of following him. To listen to Jesus means to follow him on that path that leads to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the place of death and resurrection, the place of endings and beginnings, of endings and new life, the place where what we feared was the place of death becomes the place of new life. Listening to Jesus means embarking on that journey, and it is the journey at the very center of the Christian life.

# Shine on Us

## **The Words of Holy Scripture**

One: A Reading of Scripture from 2 Kings 2:1-12

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

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## **The Gospel Lesson**

One: The Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-9

*All: Glory to you, O Christ.*

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

*All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Homily**

*"Judy Lucas and the Prom Dress"*

**Lynne Snyder**

## **Offering & Offertory**

*Holy Forever/Breathe*

**Jeff Spangler**

by Chris Tomlin, Jenn Johnson,

Phil Wickam, Brian Johnson,

ason Ingram/ Marie Barnett

## **Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell**

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

## **\*Doxology**      *Grateful*

*Grateful for the life You give us, Thankful for your Holy son,  
Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all O God of Love.*

*Grateful for the bread of heaven, Thankful for your Holy word,  
Joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.*

### **\*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**

*Santo Santo Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora.*

*Mi corazon te sabe decir, santo eros Dios.*

*Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.*

*My heart is glad to say the words, You are holy God.*

(Please be seated)

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*Come to the Table Come to the table of peace.*

*Come to the table of grace.*

*This is Christ's table not just yours or mine.*

*Come to the table of love.*

### **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**

*I'm Pressing On the Upward Way (Higher Ground)*  
(Green Gather Hymnal No.442)  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*  
**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>

# Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor*

*Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
Traditional Irish melody*

STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT

442

I'm Pressing on the Upward Way  
(Higher Ground)

*Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1892; alt.*

1 I'm press-ing on the up-ward way, new heights I'm gain-ing ev-ery  
 2 My heart has no de-sire to stay where doubts a-rise and fears dis-  
 3 I want to live be-yond the world, though Sa-tan's darts at me are  
 4 I want to scale the ut-most height, and catch a gleam of glo-ry

day; Still pray-ing as I'm on-ward bound, "O plant me,  
 may; Though some may dwell where these a-bound, my prayer, my  
 hurled; For faith has caught a joy-ful sound, the song of  
 bright; But still I'll pray till heaven I've found, "God, lead me

*Refrain*

God, on high-er ground."  
 aim is high-er ground. O lift me up, and I shall be by faith in heaven e-ter-nal-ly,  
 saints on high-er ground.  
 on to high-er ground."

A high-er plane than I have found, O plant me, God, on high-er ground.