



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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 *Thy Word is a Lamp*

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

Psalm 119

Reader: Margret Bazany

One: Happy are those who walk in the law of God.

Many: Happy are those who keep God's decrees.

One: Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart.

Many: Happy are those who do no wrong, but walk in God's ways.

One: Happy are those who keep God's statutes.

Many: Happy are those whose eyes are fixed on God's commandments.

One: I will praise you with an upright heart, O God.

Many: I will observe your statutes forever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Joys Are Flowing Like a River

(Black New Century Hymnal No. 284)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Scripture tells us that "God is love." Thank you, O God, for your love which lives in us. This Valentine's weekend, we remember that it our nature to love. May we allow your love to flow through our hearts to the hearts of others, for when we are conduits for love, we recognize the divinity in all beings. Help us to follow Jesus' teaching to love one another. Help us to appreciate those who are different from us, and even those who hurt or offend us. Loving as Jesus loved means to recognize all people as expressions of you, O God, regardless of their actions, choices, or abilities. We love because it is in our nature to love. Thank you, God of Love, for your love which lives in us. 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

Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side.

Draw the circle wide.

Words of Integration & Guidance

Father Richard Rohr

I attempt to interpret scripture as I see that Jesus did. It is rather clear in Jesus' usage that not all scriptures are created equal. He consistently ignored or even denied exclusionary and punitive texts in his own Jewish scriptures in favor of passages that emphasized inclusion and mercy. He knew what passages were creating a highway for God and which passages were merely cultural, self-serving, paranoid, tribal, and legalistic additions. Jesus read his own inspired scriptures in a spiritual and highly selective way, which is why he was accused of "teaching with authority and not like our scribes." He even told the fervent and pious "teachers of the law" that they had entirely missed the point: "You understand neither the scriptures nor the power of God." The New Testament was written in Greek—a language which Jesus did not understand—and was composed thirty to seventy years after Jesus' death. We can conclude that the exact words of Jesus were apparently not that important for the Holy Spirit or for us. We have only a few snippets of Jesus' actual words in his native Aramaic. This should keep us all humble and searching for our own experience of the Risen Christ instead of arguing over Greek verbs and tenses. Literalism is invariably the lowest and least level of meaning. For deep readers, sacred texts open up the endless possibilities for life and love. The immature approach is obvious when scriptures are used to justify slavery, apartheid, Western capitalism, nationalism, consumerism, and almost any other "-ism" that serves our egocentricity. In today's gospel reading, Jesus repeats seven times in a row, "The Law says and I say." Jesus relied upon both his enlightened reading of story and his own experience, too. He relied on both and so can we.

From the Heart

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:21-37

All: *Glory to you, O Christ.*

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

All: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Homily

"The Heart of the Matter" Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

Choose Life

Stan Greene and Peter Black

Composer: Bill Batsone and Steve Wiggins

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.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

***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, Santo, mi corazon te adora!

Mi corazon te sabe decir; santo eres 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 *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. Amen.*

***Hymn of Sending**

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

(Black New Century Hymnal No. 2)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

This Little Light of Mine

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>

Joys Are Flowing like a River
(Blessed Quietness)

Matt. 8:26; John 14:16; Ps. 46:4

Manie Payne Ferguson (b. 1850); alt.

1 Joys are flow-ing like a riv - er, since the Com - fort - er has
 2 Bring-ing life and health and glad-ness all a - round, this heav-en-ly
 3 Like the rain that falls from heav-en, like the sun - light from the
 4 See, a fruit-ful field is grow-ing, bless-ed fruit of righ - teous -
 5 What a won - der - ful sal - va - tion, when we al - ways see Christ's

come; Christ a - bides with us for - ev - er, makes the
 Guest Ban-ished un - be - lief and sad - ness, changed our
 sky, So the Spir - it too is giv - en, com - ing
 ness; And the streams of life are flow - ing in the
 face, What a per - fect hab - i - ta - tion, what a

Refrain
 trust - ing heart a home.
 wea - ri - ness to rest.
 on us from on high. Bless-ed qui - et-ness, ho - ly
 lone - ly wil - der - ness.
 qui - et rest - ing place.

qui - et-ness, what as - sur - ance in my soul. On the

storm-y sea, Je-sus speaks to me, and the bil-lows cease to roll.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

Manie Payne Ferguson, born in Ireland, was married to a Wesleyan evangelist who established several missions on England's west coast. Ferguson's hymns were published in Echoes from Beulah.

Tune: BLESSED QUIETNESS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
W. S. Marshall
Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland
and Verolga Nix, 1981

GOD

2

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

Exod. 15:20; Gen. 28:12; Ps. 81:6

African-American spiritual

1 Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, since I
2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I
3 Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I
4 I am danc - ing Mir - iam's dance now, since I
5 I am climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, since I
6 Ev - ery round goes higher and high - er, since I

laid my bur - dens down. Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le -
laid my bur - dens down. I feel bet - ter, so much
laid my bur - dens down. Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le -
laid my bur - dens down. I am danc - ing Mir - iam's
laid my bur - dens down. I am climb - ing Ja - cob's
laid my bur - dens down. Ev - ery round goes higher and

lu - jah, since I laid my bur - dens down.
bet - ter, since I laid my bur - dens down.
lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - dens down.
dance now, since I laid my bur - dens down.
lad - der, since I laid my bur - dens down.
high - er, since I laid my bur - dens down.