



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, February 19, 2023

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.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude *Holy Ground*

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: Lynne Snyder

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,**

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

(Black New Century Hymnal No. 442)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Let's go up the mountain. Let's go up to the place where the land meets the sky, where the earth touches the heavens. Let's go to the place of meeting, to the place of mists, to the place of voices and conversations, to the place of listening. O God, we open our eyes and we see Jesus transfigured to a beam of light, the light of the world, your light. Help us to recognize this light within ourselves, so that we may transform our lives and transform the world. 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

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.

Dazzling Reign

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Exodus 34:29-35

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 9:28-36

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Rev. Marchiene Rienstra

Offering & Offertory

It's In Every One of Us

Pamela Chappell

Composer: David Pomeranz

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**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit
(Black New Century Hymnal No. 282)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Peter Black

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and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

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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.

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

African-American spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will

pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Last time, end

in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God
2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -
cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly

to Refrain

round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.
one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.