



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, February 25, 2024**

## **Second Sunday in Lent**

**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**     *Shall We Gather at the River*

**Robert Edwards**

(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)     *We Gather in Love*

***We come to gather in our weakness,  
to reconnect as seekers,  
and worship one true God.***

***We come to light our lives on fire,  
with mercy we inspire,  
we gather all as one.***

***nited in one Spirit,  
each different in appearance,  
all are welcome in the house of God.***

***We gather in love.***

## **Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 103

Reader: Tom Fahlstrom

ONE: El Shaddai, with all my soul, and all that is within me, I bless your holy name..

***ALL: I remember with joy all your blessings.***

ONE: You forgive all my sin and heal my diseases.

***ALL: You save my life from ruin and crown me with lovingkindness.***

ONE: You surround me with tender mercy and satisfy my desires with good.

***ALL: As long as I live, you will renew my strength like the eagle's.***

ONE: You always act with justice and vindicate all the oppressed.

***ALL: Your love is as high as the heavens are above the earth.***

ONE: As a mother's heart embraces all her children, so your great womb-love extends to all.

***ALL: Heaven and earth are your home, and your reign extends over all.***

**Opening Hymn**    *There is a Balm in Gilead*

*(Green Gather Hymnal No.648)*

*(See music at the end of this document)*

## **Unison Prayer**

***Holy Spirit, through you clouds billow, breezes blow, stones drip with trickling streams, streams that are the source of earth's lush greening. Likewise, You are the source of human understanding. You bless with the Breath of Wisdom. Thus, all of our praise is Yours, You Who are the melody itself of praise, the joy of life, the hope of those to whom You give the gifts of the Light. Limitless Love, from the depths to the stars! Flooding all, loving all, it is the royal kiss of peace! --Hildegard of Bingen***

## **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**

*We Pray for Peace*

*We pray for peace, for peace among the nations.  
We pray for peace, good will among the people.  
'Til love comes down like a summer rain;  
'til the rivers of justice flow again,  
'til the day of jubilee has come;  
we pray for peace upon our planet home.*

## **Words of Integration & Guidance**

**Julian of Norwich**

We were made for Love. We will all enter our God, fully aware of and fully possessing God. This will last forever. We will truly see, fully feel, spiritually hear, delectably breathe in, and sweetly drink God. Our soul must perform two duties. The one is, we must reverently wonder and be surprised; the other is, we must gently let go and let be, always taking pleasure in God. Seeing God in this life, however, cannot be a continuous experience. We often fail to see God, and then we fall into ourselves and feel there is something wrong with us—that we are perverse and responsible for the entrance of sin into the world and all subsequent sins. These feelings affect us mentally and physically. But the Holy Spirit, the endless life living within us, makes us peaceful and at ease, harmonious and flexible. I saw wrath and vengeance only on our part. God forgives that in us. For wrath is a turning away from peace and love, and is opposed to them. It comes from a family of power, or of wisdom, or of goodness on our part. The Ground of Compassion is love, and the working of Divine Compassion keeps us in love. Compassion is a sweet, gracious working in love, mingled with abundant kindness; for compassion works at taking care of us and makes all things become good.

# Always Close

## **The Words of Holy Scripture**

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 11:1-9

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 1:9-15, and Luke 4:14-21

*All: Glory to you, O Christ.*

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

*All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Homily**

*“How is Lent like Springtime?”*

**Rev. Marchiene Rienstra**

(Affirmation to the tune of Swing Low, Sweet Chariot)

*God’s love is flowing through me*

*Blessing and multiplying.*

*All the good, I am and have,*

*Give and receive.*

*I am truly thankful.*

## **Offering & Offertory**

*Turn Our Hearts Around*

**Jeff Spangler**

by Trevor Thompson/Ed Bolduc

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

One: Thanks be to God!

**Many:** *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

**Many:** *Hear our prayer.*

**\*Doxology**      *Lenten Doxology*

***Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts.  
Amen.***

**\*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** *Isaiah 6:3*

***Holy holy holy Lord, God of power and might;  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory:  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!***

(Please be seated)

**Breaking of the Bread** *Let Us Be Bread*

***Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,  
broken and shared, life for the world.  
Let us be wine, love freely poured,  
let us be one with the Lord.***

**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**

*Ashes*  
(Green Gather Hymnal No.883)  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*  
*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Raney*  
**Robert Edwards**

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>

## 648 There Is a Balm in Gilead

## Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole,

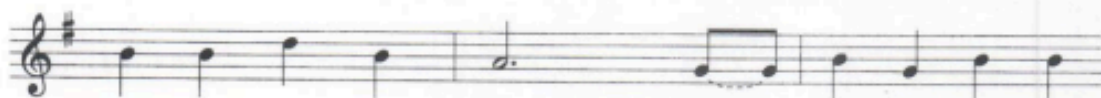


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

## Verses



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And  
 2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you  
 3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For



think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly  
 can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of  
 Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for



Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"  
 knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

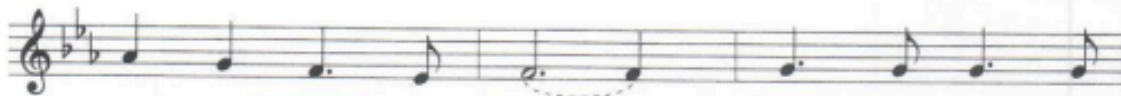
Text: Jeremiah 8:22, African-American spiritual

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD, Irregular; African-American spiritual; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

## 883 Ashes



1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the  
 2. We of - fer you our fail - ures, we  
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let  
 4. † Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who



good we've failed to do. We rise a - gain from  
 of - fer you at - tempts, The gifts not ful - ly  
 heal - ing come to pain, Though spring has turned to  
 made us like him - self. Thanks be to the



ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If  
 giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our  
 win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. The  
 Son, who saved us by his death.



all our world is ash - es, then  
 stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our  
 rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre -  
 Thanks be to the Spir - it, who cre -



must our lives be true, An of - fer - ing of  
 vi - sions wid - er view, An of - fer - ing of  
 ate the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of  
 ates the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of



ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.  
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.  
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.  
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.