



Order of Service for Sunday, February 26, 2023

First Sunday of 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.

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude *Eden Again*

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)

We Are Not Alone

We are not alone. We live in God's world. We are not alone. We live in God's world. We are called to seek out justice, to proclaim Christ, crucified and risen. Our light, and our hope. We are not alone. We are not alone. We are not alone.

Call to Worship

Psalm 25

Reader: Marybeth Sims

One: Show me how you work, O God.

Many: Instruct me in your ways.

One: Take me by the hand, O God.

Many: And lead me down the path of truth.

One: Mark me with your sign of love.

Many: Plan only the best for me, O God.

One: For God, You are fair and just;

Many: You lead me step-by-step in the right direction.

One: Show me how you work, O God.

Many: Instruct me in your ways. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

When Peace Like a River

(Black New Century Hymnal No. 438)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, this week we begin another Lenten season. Open our hearts and help us to grow in faithfulness to you and to reject the temptations of the world. As we enter this season of Lent, help us to be willing to give of ourselves so we can make the lives of others easier. May we always remain open to serving you through acts of love and compassion. May those around us come to know and believe in you through our own generous acts of giving and kindness. We ask this through Jesus, the Christ. 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*Spirit of Life*

*Spirit of life come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea.
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close – wings set me free.
Spirit of life come to me, come to me.*

Words of Integration & Guidance

Clara May Rowland

Throughout the church world during the season of Lent, people strive to become better Christians. Therefore, we should not look upon it as a forbidding or a sad season of fasting and prayer, but as a spiritual experience that means much to all of us if we enter into its observance in the right spirit. Primarily the purpose of Lent is to prepare us mentally, physically, and spiritually for a new awakening; to resurrect us out of old states of consciousness into a new realization of life; and to permit us to re-consecrate and re-dedicate ourselves to the will and the work of Jesus. Through our spiritual awakening, we shall find renewed life and health, a joyous freedom from burdens, and best of all, peace of mind. Our preparation consists, first of all, of a careful and honest appraisal of our thinking habits in order to see how they can be improved. In early days, penitent Christians began Lent by acknowledging their sins and by entering upon a period of public penance. Today, we know that we can find release from error and the effects of erroneous thinking in the past by bringing our mind and heart into unity with the Christ-mind so that its divine ideas may guide our thinking into constructive channels. We always have the help of the Spirit of truth within us. During the Lenten season, we become especially aware of the desire in our hearts to expand our spiritual nature. The power of the Spirit at work in us will back us up in our desire to prove we are truly children of God. During Lent, let us re-consecrate our eyes, our ears, and our tongues to this Truth.

Abundant Grace

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Tidying Up for Lent," **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

Offering & Offertory

Healer of My Soul

Brenda Marcy and Peter Black

Composer: John Michael Talbot

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** *Holy, Holy (St. Anne)*

*Holy, Holy, Holy God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, 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. Amen.*

***Hymn of Sending**

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
(Black New Century Hymnal No. 500)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
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>

STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT

438

When Peace, Like a River
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 / this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.



DISCIPLESHIP

500

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

*Gen. 28:10-17**African-American spiritual*

1 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der,
 2 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er, ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er,
 3 Rise, shine, give God glo - ry, rise, shine, give God glo - ry,

we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, bear-ers of the cross.
 ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er, bear-ers of the cross.
 rise, shine, give God glo - ry, bear-ers of the cross.

Like many spirituals, this one uses a story from the Hebrew scriptures as its starting point and the element of the ladder as a creative device to draw us into the narrative. In like manner, the following twentieth-century adaption of the song by Carole Etzler employs the story of Sarah, the matriarch of the Hebrew people, and extends the direction of the pilgrimage from the upward climb of the ladder to the outward embrace of a circle.

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.
African-American spiritual