



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, January 21, 2024

Third 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.**

Congregational Responses in Bold

Prelude *A Forest's Lullaby (Edin Kaso)*

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

Adapted from Psalm 104

Reader: Chris Clark

One: God, our God, how great you are gloriously robed, all dressed up in sunshine!

Many: We look around us and marvel at the infinite variety and beauty which you have created.

One. You bring grain from the land and wine to make people happy.

Many: What a wildly wonderful world you have made O God!

One: Who are we, that God should pay attention to us?

Many: We are God's beloved children, selected us to care for God's world

One: Let's sing praise God together!

Opening Hymn *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*
(New Century Hymnal No.17)
(See music at the end of this document)

Unison Prayer

Holy God, we stand in awe of the wonders of your Creation. We are amazed at the abundance of this earth. But we have used more than our fair share of the gift of energy you have given us. We have not worked to ensure fair access to energy for all peoples, especially the most vulnerable among us. We have not considered the effects of our energy use on our neighbors in our community and around the world. Help us to strive for a just energy future, in which all people can receive the resources they need, and in which our energy use is sustainable and treads lightly on your Creation.

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

Eco-Justice Program, National Council of Churches, USA

Conversations about energy often revolve around the concept of scarcity. But the truth is that God has given us energy sources in abundance. We may have a finite supply of some sources of energy, like coal and gas. But sun, wind, and water are examples of gifts from our Creator with the potential to generate power in perpetuity. Creation is brimming with energy, and a Christian perspective on energy involves acknowledging the abundance of God's Creation and the call to care for Creation including our "neighbors." Energy is a gift from God, whether it takes the form of food that fuels our bodies, gasoline that fuels our cars or electricity that lights our nights. God intends abundant life for all people, and energy is a critical part of that. Unfortunately, we have not always lived out our call to be good stewards of energy. We waste energy in myriad ways. We fail to acknowledge that some forms of energy, like gas and oil, are finite and we fail to make energy available to everyone in order for them to meet basic needs. We also have not made good choices regarding how and where we get our energy. From extraction to production to transmission the decisions we make about energy have consequences, sometimes devastating, on God's Creation and on the health and wellbeing of our neighbors.

The Waiting

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading from Scripture, Genesis 1:26-31

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

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Romans 8:18-25

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"A Word from Mother Earth,"

Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Offering & Offertory

Colors of the Wind

by Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz

Jeff Spangler and Lauri Donaldson

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.*

***Song for Communion**

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he sees, the feet with which he walks.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses the world. Yours are the hands.

***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**

Touch the Earth Lightly
(New Century Hymnal No.569)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Where Have All the Flowers Gone (Pete Seeger)
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>

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225
Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

Unison

1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery-
2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

Unison

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

Harmony

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es,
bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es, al-le -
flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
Colin Gibson, 1992