



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, January 29, 2023

Fourth 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 *In the Bleak Midwinter*
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

UCC.org

Reader: Robert Trenary

One: Pray for those who are hungry.

Many: Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

One: Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

Many: Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

One: Pray for those who are homeless.

Many: Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

One: Pray for the sick and lonely.

Many: Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

One: Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

Many: Pray harder for those who will not listen.

One: Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

Many: Pray harder for those who exploit them.

One: Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

Many: Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

One: Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

Many: Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Blessed Are They

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 659)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, you are our comfort in every need, in every moment of the day or night. When Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount, he looked out at the crowds of people, and they trusted him to relieve them of discomfort, confusion, disease, and heartache. Jesus gave them the Beatitudes, offering the promise of spiritual blessings for every condition of humankind. When we read these same Beatitudes, O God, help us to remember that you are always there to comfort, heal, and uplift us. When we put our trust in you, O God, we shall be satisfied and comforted. Truly, we are blessed.

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

by Rev. Thomas Shepherd

In the Sermon on the Mount, the author of the Gospel of Matthew brings together in one speech all the essential teachings of Jesus' three-year ministry. The Sermon begins with this passage known as the Beatitudes, intended to shock and awaken his listeners into realizing that his message was going to be radically different from traditional religious teaching. The translators of the Jesus Seminar, in their book *The Five Gospels*, attempt to communicate this radical energy by changing the mild "Blessed are ..." to the more aggressive "Congratulations to" Congratulations to the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. All of those listening to Jesus were "poor in spirit," feeling like religious rejects living unhappy lives with no real hope of "salvation." Jesus makes the essential point that a sense of being poor in spirit—a sense of dissatisfaction with the status quo—is a good thing; it's essential for anyone about to set out on the great spiritual process that will bring the kingdom of heaven into expression through us. We won't be motivated to move forward if we're passively accepting of what already is. The same is true throughout the Beatitudes. Each overturns the religious mindset that sees

negative life experiences as punishment from God. They are rather wake-up calls to get us moving on our spiritual purpose. We must mourn our lost sense of spiritual identity if we are ever to find it again. We must hunger and thirst after righteousness if we are to bring the experience of righteousness into being. We must begin to recognize the creative power of our own thoughts—thoughts of mercy create a merciful life experience, thoughts of peace create a peaceful world. We must, in short, stop seeing ourselves as victims—of either an angry God or an unfair world—and allow Jesus to teach us how to claim our true spiritual power.

The Vision Beautiful

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Micah 6:1-8

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 5:1-12

All: *Glory to you, O Christ.*

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

All: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Homily

“The ‘BE’ Attitudes” **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

Offering & Offertory

A Blessing to Me

Pamela Chappell

Composer: Pamela Chappell

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**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 726)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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>

659 Blest Are They

Verses 1-3

1. Blest are they, the poor in spir - it,
 2. Blest are they, the low - ly ones,
 3. Blest are they who show mer - cy,

theirs is the king - dom of God.
 they shall in - her - it the earth.
 mer - cy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, full of sor - row,
 Blest are they who hun - ger and thirst,
 Blest are they, the pure of heart,

they shall be con - soled.
 they shall have their fill.
 they shall see God!

Refrain

Re - jice and be glad! Bless-ed are you,

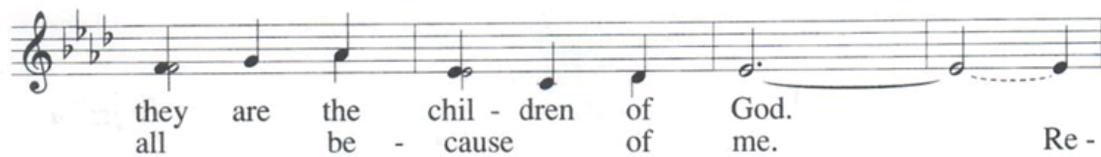
ho - ly are you! Re - jice and be glad!

Yours is the king-dom of God!

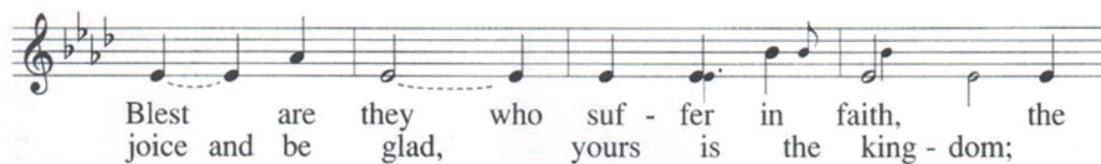
Verses 4, 5

4. Blest are they who seek peace;
 5. Blest are you who suf - fer hate,

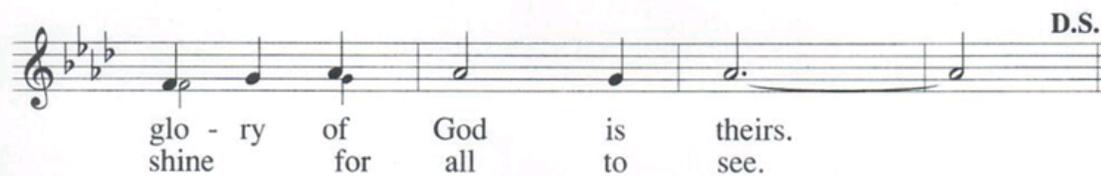
KINGDOM / REIGN OF GOD



they are the chil - dren of of God.
all be - cause of me. Re -



Blest are they who suf - fer in faith, the
joice and be glad, yours is the king - dom;



glo - ry of God is theirs.
shine for all to see. **D.S.**

Text: Matthew 5:3-12; David Haas, b.1957
Tune: David Haas, b.1957; vocal arr. by David Haas, b.1957, Michael Joncas, b.1951
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726 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Verses 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, And
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, And
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con-



soled as to con-sole. To be un-der-stood as to un-der-



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.