



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, January 8, 2023

First Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of Jesus

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 *My Chains Are Gone*
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 29

Reader: Michael Valdez

One: The voice of God is over the waters;

Many: The voice of God is powerful, full of majesty.

One: The voice of God shakes the wilderness;

Many: The voice of God flashes forth in flames of fire.

One: God sits enthroned over the flood;

Many: God sits enthroned as ruler forever.

One: May God give strength to the people!

Many: May God bless the people with peace! Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Come to the Water

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 502)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God: Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us and embraces all of us. We follow Jesus with our baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being. We come to this time and place to be with you, to thank you, and to learn from you. May our time together be like your creation of the Light that you called “good.” May it be that you would call us good as we respond to your call to be lights for 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

Rev. Dawn Hutchings

Jesus goes down to the Jordan for a different kind of baptism: Not a baptism for the repentance of sin, but a baptism in which God claims Jesus as his beloved in whom God is well pleased. The best kinds of parents that I know don't keep their children in a state of constant fear and guilt. They don't use the threat of punishment as a way to encourage their children to grow. The best kinds of parents encourage their children to grow by loving, nurturing and encouraging them. Really good parents know the importance of empowering their children. If you read the baptism story of Jesus carefully, you can almost hear the Creator of all that is and all that ever shall be beaming with pride saying, "That's my beautiful child! Just look at him! Isn't he marvelous! I'm so very pleased with him!" No wonder the skies opened up and the Holy Spirit descended on him! What parent wouldn't empower a child that pleased them so? It's time for us to get rid of the image of God as an abusive parent and begin to see God as the best parent we know how to be. That image will still fail to reflect all that God is, but surely it will give us a better glimpse of some of what God is. And then we can begin to see that like any good parent our God is a God who empowers us. Then we can begin to see that in our baptism the power of the Holy Spirit was given to us. That we too are children of God, and that God delights in us. Maybe then we can begin to claim our inheritance as children of God. Maybe we will see that the power of forgiveness has been given to us and that mercy is ours to bestow. And empowered by the Spirit, we can grow into all that God created us to be.

Possibilities Unfolding

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 43:1-7

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Baptism of Love” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Burning Bowl Ceremony

I Am Letting Go

Composer: Jack Fowler

Affirmation of Love

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** *Healing River*
(Green Gather Hymnal No. 584)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude *Down to the River to Pray*
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>

Come to the Water 502



1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the
 2. And let all who seek, let them come to the
 3. And let all who toil, let them come to the
 4. And let all the poor, let them come to the



wa-ter. And let all who have noth-ing, let them
 wa-ter. And let all who have noth-ing, let them
 wa-ter. And let all who are wea-ry, let them
 wa-ter. Bring the ones who are lad-en, bring them



come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey, with-out price.
 come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey, with-out strife.
 come to the Lord: All who la-bor, with-out rest.
 all to the Lord: Bring the chil-dren with-out might.



Why should you pay the price, ex-cept for the
 Why should you spend your life, ex-cept for the
 How can your soul find rest, ex-cept for the
 Eas - y the load and light: 7 come to the



Lord?
 Lord?
 Lord?
 Lord.

Healing River 584



1. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 2. This land is parch - ing, this land is
 3. Let the seed of free - dom, a - wake and



wa - ters, Send down your wa - ters up - on this
 burn - ing, No seed is grow - ing in the bar - ren
 flour - ish, Let the deep roots nour - ish, let the tall stalks



land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 ground. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your



wa - ters, And wash the blood from off the sand.
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, send your wa - ters down.
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, from out of the skies.

**The assembly echoes each phrase of the cantor at the interval of one half measure.*