



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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 *Be Now My Vision*

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) *No Matter*

*No matter who, no matter what, no matter where
you are in the journey of life,
you're welcome, welcome in this place.*

*No matter who, no matter what, no matter where
you are on the journey of life, accepted, welcomed by God's grace.*

(repeat after verse)

Call to Worship

Reader: MaryBeth Sims

Psalm 65

One: O God of our salvation, you are the hope of all the earth.

Many: By your strength, you established the mountains and the roaring seas.

One: You visit the earth and water it, greatly enriching its soil.

Many: You provide your people with grain, and your water blesses its growth.

One: You crown the year with your bounty, overflowing it with richness.

Many: The pastures of the wilderness overflow and shout for joy.

One: By your awesome deeds, you answer us with deliverance.

Many: Praise to you, O God, for you have answered our prayers. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Seed, Scattered and Sown

(Green Gather Hymnal No.834)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Still creating God, we know that our minds are fertile soil, ready for the planting of your Divine ideas. The thoughts that we think are the seeds which we sow. In the gardens of our minds, help us to carefully uproot the weeds of fear and doubt, and help us sow seeds of kindness, beauty, and goodwill. Help us water our gardens with prayer, and let the sunshine of your love bless us with growth, development, and abundance. 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

The Peace of Christ is Yours

Reach out your hands, accept the gift.

Reach out your hands, accept the gift.

***Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the Peace of Christ is yours!***

And it is free, free, free.

And it is free, free, free.

And it is free, free, free.

The Peace of Christ is Yours!

Words of Integration & Guidance

Rev. Pat Bessey

In today's gospel reading, Jesus teaches the parable of the sower. "A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil. When the sun rose, they were scorched and withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns and were choked. Other seeds, however, fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold." If we look at this metaphysically, we can see that the "seeds" are Divine ideas. The "sower" is God. Seeds are always being sown as divine ideas or potential, however, if they do not land in fertile soil they will die. The seed is always the same; however, the soil of our mind can be very different. Jesus is telling us there are four kinds of minds, illustrated by the four different types of soil. 1) The seed that fell by the path represents the negative mind. This seed had no chance to take root. 2) The seed that fell on rocky soil represents the mind that responds favorably at first but can't follow through. 3) The seed that fell among thorns represents the undisciplined mind. Divine ideas get choked out by negative thoughts. 4) The seed that fell on good soil represents the open and responsive mind. What does that mind look like? It must be loose and pliable. We must be willing to be broken up, let go of old thoughts and beliefs. We must be willing to change, to do some work, to get our hands dirty in order to have an abundant harvest. Jesus calls us in this parable to a new level of living where our mind is no longer responsive to the negative things of life but is open and receptive to the higher truths. Irvin Seale, author of *Learn to Live: The Meaning of the Parables*, writes, "Let us develop the soil, and the seeds which are in it will sprout and grow. Cultivate a healthy and vibrant expectancy. Condition your mind with the thought of the highest truths. Then, having made your soil ready, when the word of God falls upon your soil, it will spring up and bear fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundredfold."

Sowing Seeds

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 55:10-13

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 13:1-9, 18-23

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Sowing Seeds,” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

Peter Black

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

*Doxology

Give Thanks to the Lord

*Give thanks to the Lord for God is good
and God's mercy will endure.*

*For God alone has done marv'lous things,
give thanks unto the Lord.*

*God made the earth and heaven
with a strong and mighty hand.*

God has moved us to sing, proclaim the song!

Give thanks unto our God!

***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, Holy*

*Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, are full, of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes, who comes, in God's name.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *There is Room for All*

*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all at the table of God's love.*

And I exalt and sing "We do this in remembrance of you."

There is room for all, there is room for all.

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**

You Are the Voice

(Green Gather Hymnal No.549)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Thy Word

Peter Black

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

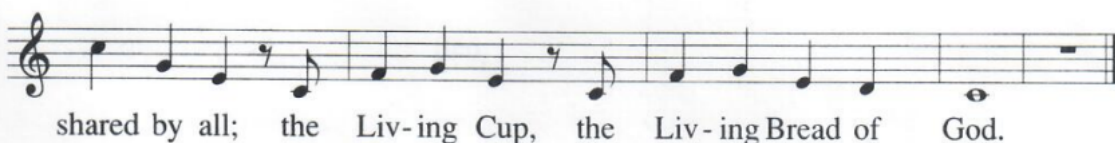
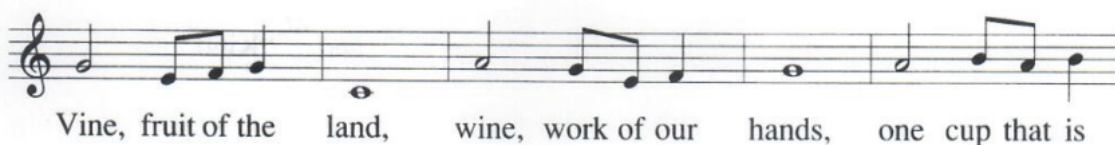
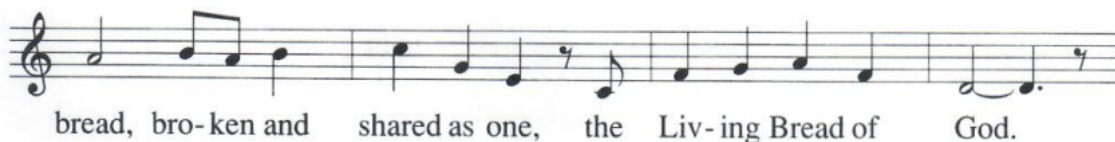
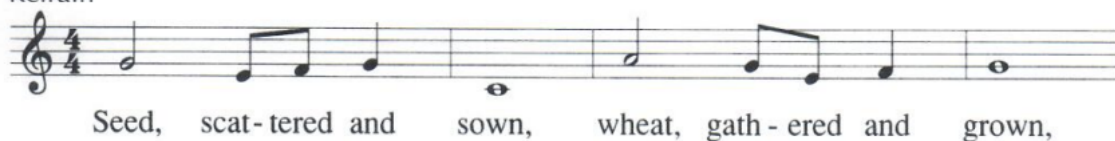
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834 Seed, Scattered and Sown

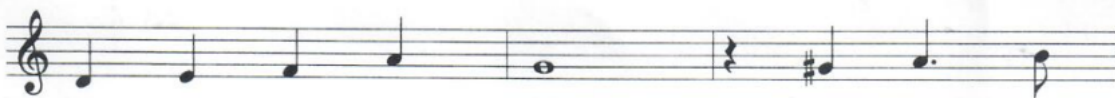
Refrain



Verses



- | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|
| 1. Is | not | the | bread | we | break | a |
| 2. The | seed | which | falls | on | rock | will |
| 3. As | wheat | up - | on | the | hills | was |



shar - ing	in	our	Lord?	Is	not	the
with - er	and	will	die.	The	seed	with -
gath - ered	and	was	grown,	So	may	the



cup	we	bless	the	blood	of	Christ	out -	poured?
in	good	ground	will	flow - er	and	have	life.	
church	of	God	be	gath - ered	in -	to	one.	

D.C.

You Are the Voice 549

Refrain

You are the voice of the liv - ing God,
 call - ing us now to live in your love, to be
 chil - dren of God once a - gain!

Verses

Cantor:

1. Praise for the light that shines through the night, from
 2. Praise for the wa - ter that springs from the sea, the
 3. Praise for the sing - ing and praise for the dance, with
 dark - ness to light, from death to new life, and
 seed that gives life to all who be - lieve, God's
 new heart and voice, all raise the song of
 praise to the morn - ing that brings forth the sun, to
 love o - ver - flow - ing, our hearts know the joy to be
 praise to cre - a - tion; all heav - en and earth, come
All:
 o - pen our eyes to the Lord! To
 daugh - ters and sons of the Lord! To be
 sing of the glo - ry of God! Come
D.C.
 o - pen our eyes to the Lord! For
 daugh - ters and sons of the Lord! For
 sing of the glo - ry of God! For

