



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, July 21, 2024

• Order of Service •

“If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in water.”

— Loren Eiseley, American Anthropologist

Lighting of Candles & Ringing the Bell

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music *For All the Children (congregation joins Cantor after verse)*

*O may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God, there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.*

Call to Worship *From: A desert faith in a desert time,
Ghost Ranch, 2013*

We gather to worship God, Giver of Life,
God, give us the waters of new life.

In the deserts of our lives, in the wilderness within,
God, give us the waters of new life.

To give us hope when we run dry, to give us strength when our world
seems barren,
God gives us the waters of new life.

To let peace flow like a river and love spring forth like a fountain,
God gives us the waters of new life.

To make justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a living
stream,
God gives us the waters of new life.

To give us, and our world, a second chance and a new beginning,
God, give us the waters of new life.

***Opening Hymn** *Like a Healing Stream*
(See music at the end of this program)

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we cannot begin to thank you for the marvelous gift of water you have given to us and your beloved Creation. We marvel at your bounty and the many ways you nurture us. We are amazed by the miracle of how your water moves around the Earth to sustain Creation. We acknowledge that there are so many times that we have not fully appreciated this sacred gift. We confess that we have often failed to be your image in the world by not caring adequately for your waters and by using much more than our share. Forgive us, God, and remind us always that the Earth and all that is in it belongs to you. Amen.

Assurance of Grace & Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

***Passing the Peace** *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)*

Words of Integration & Guidance *UCC Creation Justice Ministry*

In early Palestine, the climate and terrain were often rugged and harsh and given to extremes. Torrential floods and significant droughts were not uncommon. Weather patterns were unpredictable with considerable variation from one year to another, making agriculture difficult and inconsistent. The soils in the mountainous regions were particularly poor, and sources of persistent water were rare. As Hebrew Bible scholar Daniel Swartz says, it was “no Eden, not any longer: the promised abundance had to be teased and more often wrested from the Earth by the sweat of the brow, and the seasons had a way of being fickle, not bestowing their appointed blessings.” Rain determined settlement patterns as towns settled near springs, rivers and seas. Wells, which are so prominent in Scripture, provided access to much-needed groundwater. Elaborate tunnels and conduits were built to ensure continuous safe access to water within city walls. The Israelites were deeply connected with the sources of their water – be it rainwater, river or groundwater. In this harsh, dry climate, water was often scarce. The Bible is full of images of thirst, drought, dryness and parched earth. In the midst of this scarcity, the Israelites understood water as a treasured gift from God, not something to be taken for granted. God gave them

water to fulfill their thirst, to wash with and to nourish their crops. After the Exodus from Egypt, when the anxious Israelites were thirsty in the desert, God provided them water from rocks (Exodus 17: 3-6). In Psalm 107, God turns a desert into a pool of water to provide for the people (Psalm 107:35-36). Psalm 65, the great praise hymn, speaks of God as the great cosmic farmer who gently waters the earth and prepares the soil so that it might provide nourishment for the people (Psalm 65:9-10). And for this great blessing of water, the people were always thankful.

• We Listen and Respond to the Still-Speaking God •

**A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 2:10-14 and
Revelation 22:1-5 (adapted)**

A Reading from the Christian Scriptures: Mark 6:45-52 (adapted)

Homily

Water is Life

Rev. Jody Betten

**Offering
& Offertory**

The River, by Garth Brooks & Victoria Shaw
Jeff Spangler, Lauri Donaldson

(congregation joins in refrain)

***And I will sail my vessel 'til the river runs dry
Like a bird upon the wind these waters are my sky
I'll never reach my destination if I never try
So I will sail my vessel 'til the river runs dry***

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 corazón te adora.
Mi corazón 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.*

Preparing the Elements *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**

These are the gifts of God for you today!

(gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays)

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Our Parent who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Wade in the Water/Green Gather Hymnal #812*

Benediction

Postlude *Down to the River to Pray*
Peter Black

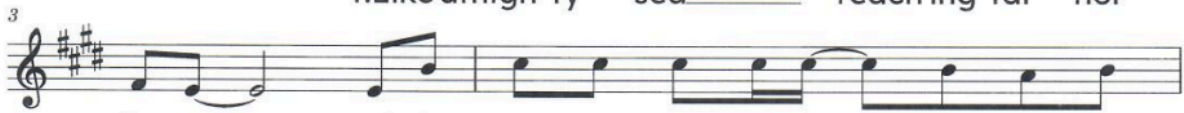
Like a Healing Stream

Opening Song

Bruce Harding



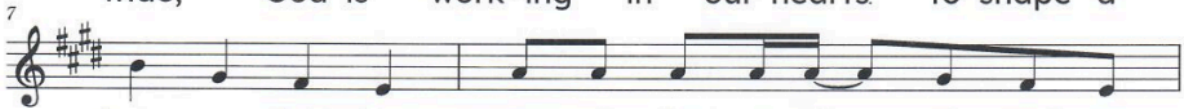
1. Like a heal- ing stream ___ in a bar - ren
 2. Like a gen - tle rain ___ on a thirs - ty
 3. Like a riv - er strong ___ with a rest - less
 4. Like a might - y sea ___ reaching far hor -



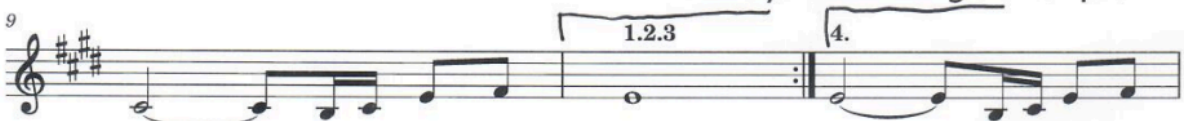
des - ert, ___ Spir - it wat - er bring - ing life ___ to dus - ty
 gar - den, ___ Spir - it wat - er come to nour - ish ti - ny
 cur - rent, ___ Spir - it wat - er rush - ing on ___ to dis - tant
 i - zons, ___ Spir - it wat - er with a love ___ both deep and



earth, God is trick - ling through our lives ___ as in a
 seed, God is bub - ling through the soil ___ to coax a
 shore, God is carv - ing out a chan - nel in a
 wide, God is work - ing in our hearts. to shape a



dream un - fold - ing, pro - mis - sing re - viv - al and re -
 new cre - a - tion, yearn - ing for an end ___ to want and
 new di - rec - tion, call - ing for an end ___ to hate and
 new to - mor - row: God will al - ways chal - lenge and pro -



birth ___ like a heal - ing stream.
 need ___ like a gen - tle rain.
 war ___ like a riv - er strong.
 vide! ___ like a might - y sea, ___ like a riv - er



strong, ___ like a gen - tle rain, ___ like a heal - ing stream.

Wade in the Water 812

Refrain

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the
 wa - ter, chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter,
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

Verses

Cantor:

1. See that host all dressed in white,
 2. See that band all dressed in red,
 3. Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
 4. If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

All: *Cantor:*

God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; The
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; Looks
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; The
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; Just

lead - er looks like the Is - ra - el - ite,
 like the band that Mo - ses led,
 Ho - ly Ghost a com - in' on me,
 fol - low me down to Jor - dan's stream,

All: **D.C.**

God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.