



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, July 28, 2024

• Order of Service •

“That love is, is all we know of love.”

— Emily Dickinson

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 *Blessing That Meets You in Love, Jan Richardson*

Every blessing begins with love, whatever else it might say, love is always its point.

This blessing today has been in love with you forever.

It has never not wanted to see your face, go through this world in your company.

This blessing thought it was high time to make sure you know.

If it has been shy in saying this, it has not been for any lack of wanting to.

This blessing knows the risk of offering itself in a way that alters you,

This blessing knows how love undoes us, unhinges us, unhides us.

It knows how loving can sometimes feel like dying.

But today this blessing has come to tell you the secret that sends it to you:

It gives itself to those willing to come alive; to those ready to be born anew.

***Opening Hymn** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling/Green Gather Hymnal #622 (See music at the end of this program)*

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, you call us to a more radical love. You call us to a love that includes our haters, our enemies, those who demean and humiliate us. God, how can we? How can we feel anything but disdain for awful people who treat us awfully? Grant us the courage and the strength, Holy God, to hold to that which is good. God, grant us patience in our practice of love. Help us not hit send on that scathing email that is so justified. Help us pause to breathe in and exhale out. Help us listen more, seek understanding, and approach those with whom we disagree with curiosity, humility and openness. Help us listen for the story beneath others' stories. Peace-loving God, help us not provoke others with hard certainties, let us not be uncompromising and insistent on our own way. Open us to dialogue and to opinions different from our own. Build our endurance for bridge-building across barriers of difference so we can wage peace in our segregated world. Finally, inspire us by your love, transform us that we may follow the ways of Jesus. 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 *Jan Richardson*

Loving is always risky, because we cannot enter into it without being changed. Altered. Transformed. In the face of this, we might well ask, *Do I really want this?* Do we really desire to be so undone? Loving is never just about opening our heart. It is about being willing to have our heart become larger as we make room for people and stories and experiences we never imagined holding. It is about being willing to have our heart become deeper as we move beyond the surface layers of our assumptions, prejudices, and habits in order to truly see and receive what—and who—is before us. It is about being willing to have our heart continually shattered and remade as we take in not only the brokenness of the world but also the beauty of it, the astounding wonder that will not allow us to remain the same.

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

A Reading from the Christian Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13, NIV

A Reading from the Christian Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13, The Message

Homily

Extravagant Love
Mark Johnston

Offering & Offertory

A Medley of Extravagant Love
Nancy Plantinga, Lauri Donaldson

Joys & Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!
One: O God,

Many: **Alleluia!**
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** *Lover of Us All/Green Gather Hymnal #633*

Benediction


Postlude *Meditation, Ryan Blok*

633 Lover of Us All

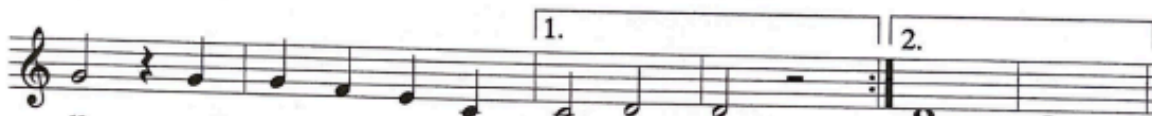
Refrain



With all the earth we sing your praise!
With sun and moon we dance for joy!




We come to give you thanks, O Lov - er of us
We are your work of art, the glo - ry of your




all, and Giv - er of our lov - ing.
hand, the chil - dren of your lov - ing.

Verses 1-3



1. I am Mak - er of moun - tains; I am
2. As I know of your la - bor, so I
3. If the night would sur - round you and the



God watch of the earth. Like a moth - er in
sun while you sleep. Ev - er close at your
fall from sight, yet my hand will pro -



la - bor I bring all to birth.
call - ing so my love will be.
tect you; I will be your light.

D.C.

622 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling,
 2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er,
 3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion,



Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
 Let us all your life re - ceive;
 Pure and spot - less, gra - cious Lord,



Fix in us your hum - ble dwell - ing,
 Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion



All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Nev - er more your tem - ples leave.
 Per - fect - ly in you re - stored.



Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion,
 Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



Love un - bound - ed, love all pure;
 Serve you as your hosts a - bove,
 Till in heav'n we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion,
 Pray, and praise you with - out ceas - ing,
 Till we sing be - fore the al - might - y



Let your love in us en - dure.
 Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
 Lost in won - der, love and praise.