



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, July 9, 2023

Sixth 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 *Jesus Loves Me*
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: Lynne Snyder

Psalm 145

One: O God, all of creation shall give you thanks.

Many: We shall speak of your glory and tell of your power.

One: We shall make known to all people your mighty deeds.

Many: Your reign is an everlasting reign, throughout all generations.

One: God is faithful in every word, and gracious in every deed.

Many: God upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

One: God's compassion is over all that God has made.

Many: God is gracious and merciful. Let us give thanks to God.

***Opening Hymn,**

Come to Us

(Green Gather Hymnal No.743)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, we are grateful for this life you have given us, but, sometimes, life can be hard to bear. When life seems heavy and burdensome, help us to remember that we can always lean on you. Remind us that we do not have to walk alone, for you are always walking with us. United with your Divine Power, we can face life's burdens with ease and grace. Yoked together with you, our loads are lightened and our souls find rest. 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. Dana Allen Walsh

In today's gospel reading, Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." A yoke is a wooden bar or frame by which two animals (such as oxen) are joined at the heads or necks for working together. According to scholar, William Barclay, ox-yokes in Jesus' day were made of wood; the ox was brought and the measurements were taken. The yoke was roughed out, and the ox was brought back to have the yoke tried on. The yoke was carefully adjusted so that it would fit well and not injure the ox. In today's reading, Jesus is letting us know that he provides a yoke that fits well. Life's burdens are bearable because we can share that heavy load with the One who loves us and the One who seeks the best for us. Our burden becomes light only by the love of God, because we have a partner in this work. Jesus isn't offering to remove the yoke. He doesn't offer a life carefree of responsibilities and obligations. In fact, the life of faith often draws us further into our care for others and our desire for a more equitable and fair world. So, the yoke's on you, but it's not breaking your back. It's bearable. It's not a life of constant rules and regulations; instead, it's a life lived in relationship and consultation with God. Jesus never wanted his disciples to follow a list of rules; instead he wanted them to be in relationship. So, Jesus says to us today, "Come, all you who are weary and heavy burdened." He's saying, Come, let's work side by side. Let's plow the fields and reap the good in life together. Take this well-fitting yoke upon you and learn from me. Together, we'll work for justice and peace. Let's carry the load of others in friendship and in love. Amen.

Chosen Journeys

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Song of Solomon 2:8-13

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 11:16-19, 25-30

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Easy & Light," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

Come to Me, All You Who Labor

Jeff Spangler (vocals);

Peter Black (piano);

Lauri Donaldson (keyboard)

Composer: John Angotti

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**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
(Green Gather Hymnal No.646)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

I Don't Know Why Jesus Loves Me (Andrae Crouch)
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>

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Come to Us 743



1. Come to me, come to us, you who are bur-dened.
2. Come to me, come to us, pil - grim or stran - ger,
3. Come to me, come to us, bro - ken or build - ing,



Come to the word, and come to the meal.
look - ing for change, or chal - lenge, or light.
Come with your chil-dren, your choic - es, your chains.



Come with-out ques - tion or pres - sure or price:
We are the peo - ple whose call - ing is care,
All are in - vit - ed to friend-ship or rest, to



Come, be em - braced by the bod - y of Christ.
bear - ers of mer - cy, nour-ished in prayer.
share in our strug-ple, our call and our quest.



646 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
 2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
 3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I



un - to me and rest; Lay down, O wear - y
 hold, I free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter;
 am this dark world's light; Look un - to me, your



one, lay down Your head up - on my breast." I
 thirst - y one, Stoop down, and drink, and live." I
 morn shall rise, And all your day be bright." I



came to Je - sus as I was, So
 came to Je - sus, and I drank Of
 looked to Je - sus, and I found In



wea - ry, worn, and sad; I found in him a
 that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my
 him my star, my sun; And in that light of



rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
 soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
 life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

Tune: KINGSFOLD, CMD; English; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, © Oxford University Press

