



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, June 25, 2023**

## **Open and Affirming Sunday**

**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**     *Over the Rainbow*

**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**

**“Courage to Love” by Justin Tanis**

**Reader: Chris Clark**

One: For all who have taken the risk of loving another,

***Many: We thank you, O God of Courage.***

One: For all who have colored outside the lines that others have placed around them,

***Many: We rejoice with you, O God of Creativity.***

One: For all who have lived true to the inner voice within,

***Many: We celebrate with you, O God of Integrity.***

One: For all who proclaim their pride at who you created them to be,

***Many: We dance with you, O God of Joy.***

One: For the unique creation that is each one of us,

***Many: We honor you, O God of All. Amen.***

**\*Opening Hymn,**

*Fearfully, Wonderfully Made*

(Find Music at the end of this program)

**Unison Prayer**

***Installation of New Members***

***God who calls, thank you for the people who have listened to your call to become members of Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit upon them and empower them to be instruments of light and peace in the world. May we uphold and support them as they dedicate themselves this day to our church community, and may all of us remain open to your call which continues throughout our lives. 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**

**Toby Johnson, from his book, *Gay Spirituality***

Being gay gives a perspective on human experience that is different from that of the great majority of people. There must be something special and useful to humanity about this perspective, since a disproportionate number of important artists, poets, religious leaders, and spiritual guides in the past were what today we'd call gay. Happy, flourishing gay people transform the world around them. Because the social condemnation of homosexuality is almost always couched in religious terms, this perspective necessarily forces gay people to seek to understand what religion really is. Indeed, gay perspective is itself a religious phenomenon. Gay people have an acute sense of the phenomena of transformation that is at the heart of mystical spirituality. Since the 1950s and '60s, gay people have transformed themselves and their lives—and their place in society—by changing how they conceived their sexuality. Instead of thinking of it as illness or sinfulness, they chose to think of it in the way that's natural: as love and as attraction to beauty and joy. This shift in perspective has changed everything. Signified by the embrace and proclamation of the word "gay" as a badge of community pride, this shift in self-perception has transformed being gay from a terrible burden to a gift from God. No longer a sin, it is evidence of grace.

# Daring Discipleship

## The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Genesis 9:12-16

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 5:1-16

**Many: Glory to you, O Christ.**

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

**Many: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Homily

“Coming Out Spiritually,” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

## Offering & Offertory

*Who We Love*

**Jeff Spangler and Peter Black**

Songwriters: Steve Mac/Ed Sheeran/

James John Napier/Sam Smith/

Johnny Mcdaid /Fred Gibson

## 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**

*Pour Your Freedom Over Me*  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*Sunshine In My Soul*  
**Peter Black**

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

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

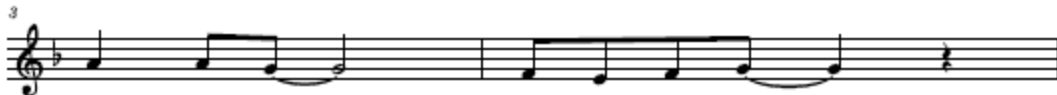
# Fearfully, Wonderfully Made

Hymn of Gathering

Nathan Crabtree and Erik Whitehill



You were known, known be - fore birth.  
You be - long, You are re-deemed.  
When you walk, walk through the flame.



Wo - ven deep, deep in the earth.  
Loved by God, God is well pleased.  
God is there, cal - ling your name.



You were formed. from star-dust. Sing Praise! You are  
Now em - brace what God has or - dained: You are  
God has said "Do not be a - fraid." You are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made, Yes, you are  
fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made, Yes, you are  
fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made, Yes, you are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made!  
fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made!  
fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made!

# Pour Your Freedom Over Me

Hymn of Sending

Cheryl Bragg



Pour your free - dom o - ver me.\_\_\_\_  
Pour your jus - tice o - ver me.\_\_\_\_  
Come let's stand in u - ni - ty.\_\_\_\_  
Let us walk in lib - er - ty.\_\_\_\_



Pour your free-dom o - ver me.\_\_\_\_\_ Hand in  
Pour your jus - tice o - ver me.\_\_\_\_\_  
Come let's stand in u - ni - ty.\_\_\_\_\_  
Let us walk in lib - er - ty.\_\_\_\_\_



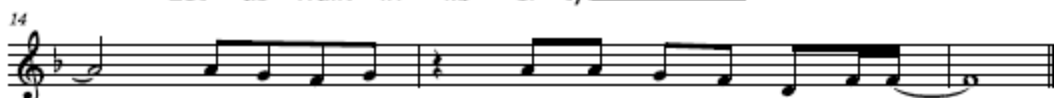
hand let's make. a chain,\_\_\_\_ and to - geth - er\_\_\_\_ pro - claim,\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_ Land of the brave,\_\_\_\_ home of the free\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_ Pour your free-dom o - ver me.\_\_\_\_\_ Land of the brave,\_\_\_\_  
Pour your jus - tice o - ver me.\_\_\_\_\_  
Come let's stand in u - ni - ty.\_\_\_\_\_  
Let us walk in lib - er - ty.\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_ home of the free, Pour your free-dom o - ver me!\_\_\_\_  
Pour your jus - tice o - ver me!\_\_\_\_  
Come let's stand in u - ni - ty!\_\_\_\_  
Let us walk in lib - er - ty!\_\_\_\_