



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, June 9, 2024

## **Happy Pride!**

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 comfortable.

**Congregational Responses in Bold**

### **Meaning of the colors of the traditional rainbow flag:**

**Red = Life, Passion; Orange = Healing, Kindness;  
Yellow = Sunlight, Joy; Green = Nature, Growth;  
Blue = Harmony, Peace; Purple = Spirit,  
Belonging**

### **Lighting the Candles & Ringing in the Hour**

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

### **Welcome & Announcements**

## **Centering Music** *Surely the Presence*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can feel the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

### **Call to Worship** (ONA Coalition, adapted)

One: We are grateful for the gift of love in our lives,  
Many: **For the love of family of origin and family of choice.**

One: Love is love is love is love.  
Many: **We honor the many ways that people love.**

One: We repent for the times when our faith traditions have singled out one kind of love as the best or most appropriate.  
Many: **Real love is inclusive. All are worthy of love.**

One: Love does not oppress, exclude, or deny any person. This is how justice looks in public.  
Many: **True justice flourishes when we all can live with authenticity and integrity.**

One: May we work to build a community where LGBTQ people are celebrated as full and equal members, recognizing their many gifts.  
Many: **Today we again celebrate diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity and expression as blessings that enrich us all.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother*  
(See music at the end of this program.)

### **Opening Prayer** *HP Rivers, queer, neurodivergent, pagan, UU-ordained minister*

**God of all people, bless the wanderers, seeking affirmation. Bless the worshipers, praying from closets, pulpits, pews, and hardship. Bless the lovers of leaving, leaving family and familiarity, leaving tables where love is not being served. Bless those who stay. Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice; may they be satisfied. Bless the queer disciples of truth, living, breathing, sacred reflections of divine love. Bless us as we celebrate all those who seek a place at the table, a welcome in the beloved community. 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** *Peace I Leave with You*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.  
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.  
Not as the world gives, I give my peace to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give my peace to you.*

### **Words of Integration & Guidance** Beth Carroll, ordained in the Reformed Church in America, pastor at Oakland City Church, CA

For my Christian siblings who are trying to "reclaim" the rainbow in Genesis from being a symbol of Pride: God said, "From now on, when I form a cloud over the Earth and the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll remember my covenant between me and you and everything living." The rainbow is about God. It is about God choosing us. It is about God choosing the rhinoceros, the carpenter ants, and even the dandelions. It is about God choosing us always — in our identities, in our orientations, even in our inability to yet learn love and radical inclusion. It is about God saying there is no evil, no nuclear fallout, no genocide, no global warming — there is nothing that can separate us from belonging to God and being called beloved, even when others try to destroy that reality. The rainbow isn't about our fidelity to God, it never was. It is about a God who never stops saying yes to loving us. When we look at a rainbow, we are to remember "God loves us and all creation and God is beholding us right now in this moment." I cannot think of a better reason to choose a rainbow as a symbol to name just how radically expansive love is. That symbol of love — though you think is super limited — is greater than you can ever imagine. I claim that love, even for you.

## • God's Will •

### **The Hebrew Scripture**

One: A Reading from **I Samuel 8:4-11** (adapted)

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Lesson**

One: A reading from the Gospel of **Mark 3:31-35**

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

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

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

### **Homily**

### **Traditional Family Values?**

Rev. Jody Betten

### **Offering & Offertory** *You Have More Friends than You Know*

Jeff Spangler & Peter Black  
Composers: Mervyn Warren  
and Jeff Marx

### **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 shall endure,  
For God alone has done marv'ulous 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 this song! Give thanks unto our  
God.*

*(please be seated)*

## **\*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 Lord*

*Holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glo-o-ry.  
Ho-oh-oh-san-na in the high-est.  
Blessed the One who comes in the na - me of the Lord,  
in the name of our God.  
Ho-oh-oh-sanna in the high - est, Ho-oh-oh-sanna in the highest.  
(Please be seated.)*

## **Breaking of the Bread** *The Body of Christ*

*This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;  
this cup, as promised by God, true to God's word, cradles our Lord;  
Food for the good of the soul.*

## **\*Sharing of the Bread & Cup** *(gluten-free option, juice in trays)*

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**  
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

## **\*The Lord's Prayer** (based on a translation from Aramaic)

**Our beloved Parent, in whom we have our being, your wondrous name shines forth in the diversity of your creation. May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on Earth as in heaven. Grant that our queer loved ones might have their daily needs met, that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own. Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your queer children — times we turned away or did not care; times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear — as we forgive those who might have failed us. Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. Instead give us courage to stand up and stand with all your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Sending** *I Want To Be Ready/New Century Hymnal #616*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** *I've Been Changed (Dottie Rambo), 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/douglasuc>

# Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother

## Opening Hymn


Shirley Murray

Lim Swee Hong




Who is my moth - er, who is my bro - ther?  
Dif - ferent-ly a - bled, dif-ferent-ly la - bled,  
Love will re - late us co - lor or sta - tus

3




All those who gath - er 'round Je - sus Christ;  
wi - den the cir - cle 'round Je - sus Christ;  
can't seg - re - gate us 'round Je - sus Christ;

5



Spir - it blown peo - ple born from the gos - pel  
crutch - es and stig - mas cul-ture's e - nig - mas,  
fam - i - ly fail - ings, hu - man de - rail - ings -

7



sit at the ta - ble 'round Je - sus Christ.  
all come to - geth - er 'round Je - sus Christ.  
all are ac - cept - ted 'round Je - sus Christ.

## I Want to Be Ready

616

*African-American spiritual**Rev. 21:1-4, 10-27; John 11:1-44; Acts 2:14, 36-41*

*Refrain*

I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,

*Last time, end*

I want to be read - y to walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

*Leader* *All*

1 Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say?  
 2 When Mar - tha spoke the Sav - ior's name,  
 3 When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.  
 4 When Mar - y asked Je - sus to "come and see,"  
 5 John said the cit - y was just four - square,

*All* *to Refrain*

That I'll be there at the com - ing day,  
 She knew she'd nev - er be the same,  
 He was en - dowed with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.  
 Her faith gave Laz - a - rus vic - to - ry,  
 And he de - clared he'd meet me there,

*Leader*