



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, March 12, 2023**

## **Third Sunday of Lent**

**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**     *As the Deer Longs For Running Water*

**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)

*We Are Not Alone*

***We are not alone. We live in God's world. We are not alone. We live in God's world. We are called to seek out justice, to proclaim Christ, crucified and risen. Our light, and our hope. We are not alone. We are not alone. We are not alone.***

## **Call to Worship**

**Psalm 95**

**Reader: Julie Ridl**

One: O come, let us sing to God.

***Many: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!***

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

***Many: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!***

One: In God's hand are the depths of the earth;

***Many: The heights of the mountains are also God's.***

One: The sea is God's, for God made it.

***Many: And the dry land, too, which God's hands have formed.***

One: God is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture.

***Many: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise.***

## **\*Opening Hymn,**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 646)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Unison Prayer**

***On this day when we commemorate the Amistad Event and the 53 captives held aboard it, we pause to give thanks for their faith and inspiration. We remember also the faithful believers of our church who took up the Amistad cause. And yet, O God, we know that we cannot rest on remembering, because you call upon us to make a difference in our world today. Move us with your Spirit, the same spirit that charged the Amistad captives to stand up for the freedom that was rightly theirs. We give you thanks for the gifts of Spirit, which give us strength for today and hope for tomorrow. 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**

*Spirit of Life*

***Spirit of life come unto me.***

***Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.***

***Blow in the wind, rise in the sea.***

***Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.***

***Roots hold me close – wings set me free.***

***Spirit of life come to me, come to me.***

## **Words of Integration & Guidance**

**Bishop John Shelby Spong**

Almost any poll of regular churchgoers will reveal that their favorite book in the New Testament is the Gospel of John. Yet, I suspect that these devotees of John's Gospel would be both shocked and angered by contemporary insights into this treasured book. Among the conclusions that I have reached in my intensive study of John's Gospel are these: There is no way it was written by any of the disciples of Jesus. The author of this book is not a single individual, but is at least three different writers/editors, who did their layered work over a period of 25 to 30 years. Not one of the miracles recorded in this book was, in all probability, something that actually happened. This means that Jesus never changed water into wine, fed a multitude with five loaves and two fish or raised Lazarus from the dead. Many of the characters who appear in the pages of this book are literary creations of its author and were never intended to be understood as real people, who actually lived in history. John's Gospel seems to ridicule anyone who might read this book as a work of literal history. For example, Jesus says to Nicodemus: "You must be born again." Nicodemus, the literalist, says: "Born again? How can I crawl back into my mother's womb?" Jesus says to the Samaritan woman: "I will give you living water." The Samaritan woman, a literalist, responds: "Man, you don't even have a bucket!" John's Gospel is not a literal history, but rather a symbolic text to describe the experience of the human breaking the boundaries of consciousness and entering into the transformation available inside a sense of a mystical oneness with God. Christianity is not about the divine becoming human so much as it is about the human becoming divine. That is a paradigm shift of the first order.

# Water for the Thirsty

## **The Words of Holy Scripture**

One: A Reading of Scripture from Exodus 17:1-7

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

*Many: Thanks be to God.*

## **The Gospel Lesson**

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 4:5-42

*Many: Glory to you, O Christ.*

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

*Many: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Homily**

“Woman at the Well,” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

## **Offering & Offertory**

*Love Can Build a Bridge*

**Elizabeth Estes and Jeff Spangler,  
accompanied by Peter Black**

Composers: Jarvis/Judd/Overstreet

## **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** *Holy, Holy (St. Anne)*

*Holy, Holy, Holy God of Hosts.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

*Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

*(Please be seated)*

**Breaking of the Bread** *Let Us Be Bread*

*Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,  
broken and shared, life for the world.*

*Let us be wine, love freely poured.*

*Let us be one with the Lord.*

**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. Amen.*

## **\*Hymn of Sending**

*Jerusalem, My Destiny* (vs 1-4)  
(Green Gather Hymnal No. 390)  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
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>

## 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.

LENT

# Jerusalem, My Destiny 390

## Refrain

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa - lem, my  
 des - ti - ny! Though I can - not see the end for me, I  
 can - not turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the  
 way; this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let  
 no - one walk a - lone. The jour - ney makes us one.

## Verses

1. Oth - er spir - its, less - er gods, have court - ed  
 2. See, I leave the past be - hind; a new land  
 3. In my thirst, you let me drink the wa - ters  
 4. All the worlds I have not seen you o - pen  
 5. ~~To~~ the tombs I went to mourn the hope I  
 me with lies. Here a - mong you  
 calls to me. Here a - mong you  
 of your life. Here a - mong you  
 to my view. Here a - mong you  
 thought was gone. Here a - mong you  
 D.C.  
 I have found a truth which bids me rise.  
 now I find a glimpse of what might be.  
 I have met the sa - viour, Je - sus Christ.  
 I have found a vi - sion, bright and new.  
 I a - woke to un - ex - pect - ed dawn.