



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in 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 *Softly and Tenderly*, 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 *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

Take, O take me as I am.

Summon out what I shall be.

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Call to Worship

Psalm 63

Reader: Jerry Coates

One: O God, you are my God, in whom I seek.

Many: My soul thirsts for you, O God.

One: My body pines for you, as a dry, weary land without water.

Many: I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

One: Your steadfast love is better than life. My lips will sing your praise.

Many: I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

One: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast.

Many: My mouth praises you with joyful lips

One: I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you at night.

Many: For you have been my help, O God. In the shadow of your wings, I find peace.

***Opening Hymn,**

Hosea

(Green Gather Hymnal No.386)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Prayer for Amistad Sunday

On this day when we commemorate the Amistad Event and the 53 captives held aboard it, we pause to give you thanks for their faith, legacy and inspiration. We remember also the faithful believers of our church who took up the Amistad cause and fought to secure the inalienable rights that are endowed by you. And yet, O God, we know that we cannot rest on remembering, because you call upon each and every one of us to act to make a difference in our world today. God, if we are to respond to the challenges of our world, we need you to move us with your Holy Spirit, the same spirit that charged the Amistad captives to stand up for the freedom that was rightly theirs. Loving God, 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** *Send Your Spirit to Set Us Free*

Send your Spirit to set us free. Send your Spirit to set us free.

Fill our hearts and minds, loose the chains that bind.

Send your Spirit to set us free.

Words of Integration & Guidance

By Rev. Ed Townley

Today's Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent is known as "The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree." In it, the owner of a vineyard comes to a fig tree looking for fruit, but finds none. The owner then says to the gardener, "For three long years, I've been trying to find figs on this fig tree, and I'm fed up! Cut this sorry tree down! It's just taking up space!"

The gardener replies, "Lord, let it alone for one more year. I'll dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." With this parable, Jesus is trying to get us to consider how we might be like the fig tree. God, the vineyard owner, wants us to bear the fruits of the Spirit, for that's what we were "planted" in human form to do. So, if God is the vineyard owner and we are the fig tree in the parable, then Jesus must be the gardener, the one who replies, "Lord, turn this fig tree over to me for awhile. Let me see what I can do with it."

Jesus, the gardener, offers us hope. He is willing to be patient with us a while longer, to give us another year to grow, to nurture us with teachings and with demonstrations of Truth. The creative Power of God is eager to flow through us, empowering us and transforming our lives, but if we do not allow that to happen, we will be "cut down." It's not a judgment or a punishment. It just means that if we are not "bearing fruit" by allowing the Spirit to grow in us and through us, then we are spiritually useless. If we are not willing to assume our spiritual responsibilities — to allow our lives to bear fruits of love, abundance, compassion — then we will be passed by. The Good News is that Jesus doesn't give up on us. He continues to till the soil of our being, nurturing us, and waiting patiently for us to grow and bear the fruits of his labor.

Open Invitation

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 55:1-9

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily "Bearing Spiritual Fruit," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *"Faithful"*

Stan Greene and Peter Black

Composers: Chris Tomlin, Christy and Nathan Nockels,
and Ed Cash

Bearing Fruit

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done,

Creator, Christ and Spirit One.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

***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** (Isaiah 6:3)

*Holy holy holy, Lord, God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thee.
Heaven and earth are praising Thee.
O Lord most high.
(Please be seated)*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

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

Our Daily Bread

***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**

Change Our Hearts
(Green Gather Hymnal No.394)
(Find Music at the End of this Program)

***Benediction**

Postlude, *Celtic Canticle*, Peter Black

Have a great week! Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

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

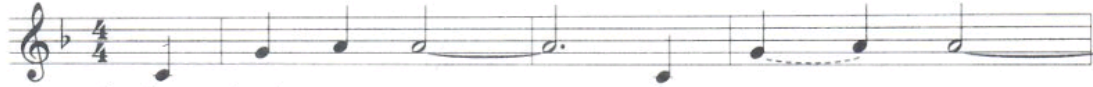
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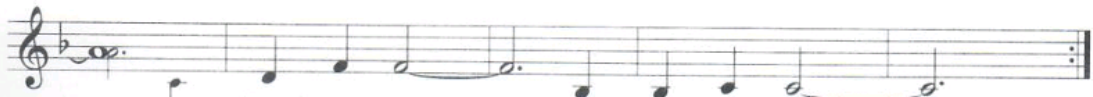
LENT

Hosea 386

Verses



1. Come back to me with all your heart.
 & Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;
2. The wil - der - ness will lead you
 In - teg - ri - ty and jus - tice,
3. & You shall sleep se - cure with peace;

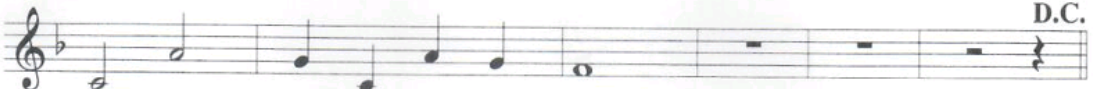


Don't let fear keep us a - part.
so must we to oth - ers' call.
to your heart where I will speak.
With ten - der - ness, & you shall know.
faith - ful - ness will be your joy. *(To refrain)*

Refrain



Long have I wait-ed for your com - ing home to me and



liv - ing deep - ly our new life.

Text: Based on Hosea 6:1, 3-3, 2:16,21; Joel 2:12; Gregory Norbet, b.1940
Tune: Gregory Norbet, b.1940; arr. by Mary David Callahan, b.1923
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394 Change Our Hearts

Refrain

Change our hearts this time, Your word says it can
 be. Change our minds, this time, Your life could make us
 free. We are the peo - ple Your call set a - part,
 Lord, this time change our hearts.

Verses

1. Brought by your hand to the edge of our dreams.
 2. Now as we watch you stretch out your hands,
 3. Show us the way that leads to your side,

One foot in par - a - dise, one in the waste.
 of - 'fring a - bun - dan - ces, full - ness of joy.
 o - ver the moun - tains and sands of the soul.

Drawn by your prom - is - es, still we are
 Your milk and hon - ey seem dis - tant, un -
 Be for us man - na, wa - ter from
 D.C.

lured by the shad - ows and the chains we leave be - hind. But
 real, when we have bread and wa - ter in our hands. But
 stone, 7 light which says we nev - er walk a - lone. And