



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, March 26, 2023

Fifth 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 (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 130

Reader: Dan Mack

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.

Many: O God, hear my voice!

One: Let your ears be attentive to my voice, O God.

Many: I wait for God, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope.

One: My soul waits for God more than those who watch for the morning.

Many: For with God there is steadfast love and great power.

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.

Many: O God, hear my voice! Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Awake, O Sleeper

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 803)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Revitalizing God, help us to remember the many instances of Jesus' having "lifted up his eyes" when he prayed. When he did so, he raised himself to a higher realm of consciousness. Lazarus, asleep in death, was aroused to a consciousness of life because of Jesus' powerful realization of eternal life. Following Jesus' example, help us to recognize, O God, that we, too, can arouse our own selves from inertia and lifelessness by lifting our vision and speaking words of life. 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

Rev. Kelly Isola

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a wonderful Hebrew allegory that offers a way to see how we can engage with unimaginable challenges in life—moving through the fear, grief, and uncertainty accompanying any journey of transformation. The narrative invites us to ask, “How do I move through something that appears to be impossible?” One day everything is right with the world—the relationship is solid, the job is fun, life is meaningful and rewarding, and there are no clouds on the horizon to threaten your sense of well-being and flow of blessings. Then suddenly life begins to unwind and nothing is secure, not even life itself. Chaos and fear reign, you are rocked to your core, and nothing seems right with your world. Growing up Catholic, I walked the Stations of the Cross each year during Lent, one of the oldest devotions in Christianity. They are 14 depictions of Jesus’ final hours. We would walk silently and slowly, stopping at each one. The Stations represent the universal understanding of the presence of pain we all experience in life. We all endure suffering, dying daily to things in life in order to be brought to a resurrection of living life more fully and abundantly. In Jesus’ journey, he suffered injustice, and betrayal, had his faith challenged, and felt alone, and afraid. However, time and again he met someone to help him carry his burden, affirm his faith, wash his wounds, remind him he wasn’t alone, wipe away his tears, and give him the strength to take another step. Do we not experience the same things in our own lives? Every difficulty in life calls us to look again with new eyes, to stretch our souls beyond what we can imagine. Doing the impossible means awakening to the power of God acting in and through us. It’s a journey that stretches beyond what we know, but ultimately brings us to a place of wholeness, resurrection, and new life.

Breath of Hope

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Romans 8:6-11

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 11:1-45

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

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

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

Homily

“Lazarus, Come Out!” **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

Offering & Offertory

Higher Place

Nancy Plantinga

Composer: Daniel Nahmod

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**

No Longer Strangers

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 734)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

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>

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

803 Awake, O Sleeper

Refrain



A - wake, O sleep-er, a - rise from death, a - ban-don the shad-ows of

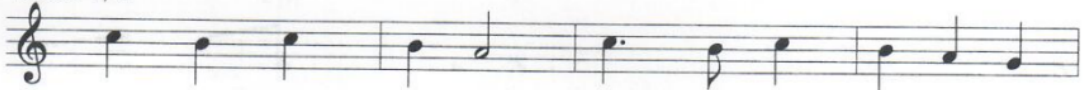


night; the wind of the spir-it shall be your breath, and

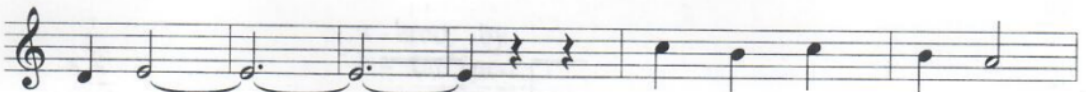


Christ will fill you with light.

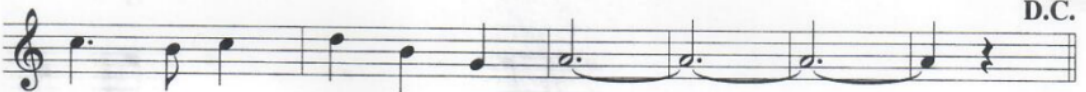
Verses 1, 2



1. Once you were dark-ness, once you were lost in the
2. Live as God's peo-ple, live as God's jus-tice and



shad-ows. Once you were dark-ness,
mer-cy, filled with com-pas-sion,



now you are chil-dren of light.
filled with the pow-er of love.

D.C.

Verse 3



3. Shine out with the splen-dor of love, shine with



jus-tice and right-eous-ness. Sing the mu-sic your spir-it has



heard, the songs of glo-ry and light.

D.C.

No Longer Strangers 734

Verses



1. We once were lost; with-out
 2. We once were cut off; but now
 3. We who once were dead, now we



hope, with - out God; but now in Christ
 we are brought near, for Christ is our
 live in the light, we fol - low Christ



Je - sus, we have been found!
 peace, we were bro - ken, now whole! One
 Je - sus, a - bun - dant in grace! Who



Saved by the prom-ise of God!
 spir - it, one Bod - y of Christ!
 saved us, who raised us to life!

Refrain



No long - er stran-gers, no long-er lost and a - lone!



No long - er stran-gers, now we are saints! We are



one in the house of God!