



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, March 27, 2022**

**Fourth 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**     *Goin' Home* (Dvorak), 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 32**

**Reader: Lynne Snyder**

One: You are my hiding place, O God.

**Many: You save me in my time of distress.**

One: A hidden secret wastes my frame.

**Many: I groan through the night and cry through the day.**

One: Yet You, O God, gaze into the secrets of my soul.

**Many: You surround my soul with cries of freedom.**

One: Flood waters may reach high, but they shall not reach me.

**Many: Let every good man and woman pray to You In their hour of need.**

One: For You save us in our times of distress.

**Many: You are our hiding place, O God.**

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn,**

*Softly and Tenderly*

(Black New Century Hymnal No.449)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Unison Prayer**

**Prayer for Transgender Day of Visibility**

***Spirit of life and love that resides within and among us: Today, we hold in love and prayer all transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance. We hold in love and prayer all the ways that transgender people have survived and thrived in a hostile world. We pray for the dawn of a new day when the very humanity of trans people is no longer called into question or ignored. We pray that a spirit of compassion and care will fill us to overflowing, that we may have the capacity to listen, learn, and grow, not only in our awareness, but also in our willingness to act. On this day, we commit and recommit to creating a world where all people, no matter their gender identity or sexuality, know that they are loved and valued. 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 Richard Rohr**

Scripture says that we were created in the very “image and likeness” of God. I find that many Christians, however, still have no knowledge of the soul’s objective union with God, which all mystics rejoice in or they would not be mystics. Even ministers often fight me on this, quoting Augustine’s “original sin,” Calvin’s “total depravity,” or dear Luther’s “humans are like piles of manure, covered over by Christ.” I am sure they all meant well, but such a negative starting point will not be very effective in creating loving or responsive people. How do you ever undo such foundational damnation? Many Christians have tried to pile a positive theology of salvation on top of a very negative anthropology of the human person, and it just does not work. Such traditions produce few mystics and universal lovers. The human self-image is too damaged and distorted from the beginning. The word sin has so many unhelpful connotations that it’s very problematic today. For most of us, “sin” does not connote what it really is: the illusion of separateness from God and from our original identity, our True Self. Jesus seems to primarily see it as a blindness that traps us in self-destructive behaviors and hard-heartedness. Thus he is always healing blind people and challenging people who see themselves as superior to others. The primary meaning of sin is to live outside “the garden.” Sin is primarily living outside of union; it is a state of separation, when the part poses as the Whole. It’s the loss of any inner experience of who you are in God. You can’t accomplish or work up to union with God, because you’ve already got it. The biblical revelation is about awakening, not accomplishing. It is about realization, not performance. You cannot get there, you can only be there.

# Embracing Love

## The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

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

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

## Homily

“The Journey Home,”

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

## Offering & Offertory *“Lord, I’m Coming Home”*

Max Brown and Gloria Larrieu

Composer: William J. Kirkpatrick

# Coming Home

## 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**

*What a Covenant*

(Black New Century Hymnal No.471)

(Find Music at the End of this Program)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude,** *Blessed Assurance*, Peter Black

Have a great week! 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>

# Softly and Tenderly

*Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.*

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from  
 4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's  
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are  
 you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come  
 com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. Come home,  
 par - don, par - don for you and for me.

home, All who are wea - ry, come home;  
 come home,

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"



