



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, March 3, 2024

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.**

Congregational Responses in Bold

Prelude *"The Spruce" (Op. 75, No. 5), Jean Sebelius*

Daniel Tague

(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 Gather in Love*

We come to gather in our weakness, to reconnect as seekers, and worship one true God. We come to light our lives on fire, with mercy we inspire, we gather all as one. United in one Spirit, each different in appearance, all are welcome in the house of God. We gather in love.

Call to Worship

UCC.org

Reader: Mike Valdez

ONE: We have come together to worship the Artistic Director of the wildlife with whom we share the planet. Oh, Creator, you love all and despise none, for your immortal spirit is in all beings, human and other-than-human.

ALL: Let us marvel at the beauty of wild creatures - great and small - who are innocent in God's sight,

ONE: Let us wonder at the Divine handiwork in the complexity of their lives.

ALL: Let us delight in other worlds, sublime and mysterious.

ONE: The world of earthworms burrowing in the ground below us.

ALL: The world of foxes playing around their dens near us.

ONE: The world of pigeons and doves soaring above us.

ALL: Let us sense our Oneness with all wild beings in our world, always and everywhere.

Opening Hymn *Pray For the Wilderness*

(New Century Hymnal No.557)

(See music at the end of this document)

Unison Prayer

Holy Trinity, awaken within us a sense of feeling for all the living creatures you have placed among us; give us a compassionate heart, for all who suffer and make us visible signs of your peaceful kin-dom for which all creation longs. God of justice and peace, you hear the cries of all your creatures. Hear our prayer for all wildlife imprisoned in zoos, transported overseas, hunted for sports, exploited in circuses, dissected in schools, abused in laboratories and trapped for their fur. Let your mercy be upon them. 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

We Pray for Peace

*We pray for peace, for peace among the nations.
We pray for peace, good will among the people.
'Til love comes down like a summer rain;
'til the rivers of justice flow again,
'til the day of jubilee has come;
we pray for peace upon our planet home.*

Words of Integration & Guidance

Mark Wallace

Christianity is a religion that celebrates the enfleshment of God in many forms and, in particular, in both human and avian forms. Christianity, in other words, is a religion of double incarnation: God becomes flesh in both humankind and otherkind. My theological point is that as God became human in Jesus, thereby signaling that human beings are the enfleshment of God's presence, so also by becoming avian in the Spirit, God signals that other-than-human beings are the enfleshment of God's presence as well. Christian faith, at its core, centers on belief in God as a fully incarnated reality not only in the humanity of Jesus Christ, but also in the animality, as it were, of the Holy Spirit. If this is the case, is not the wide-ranging world of nonhuman nature—the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the beasts of the field—the focus of God's interest, not just human wellbeing? And if this is the case as well, should we not, as human beings, comport ourselves toward the natural world in a loving and protective manner because this world is the fullness of God within the life of every creature?

World Wildlife Day

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Genesis 8:1-12

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

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:16-17

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Messengers of God"

Rev. Ginny Mikita

Offering & Offertory

His Eye is On the Sparrow

Jeff Spangler

Civilla Durfee Martin, Charles Gabriel

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

***Doxology**

Lenten Doxology

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit who imparts

God's love in Christ into our hearts.

Amen.

***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 power and might;

heav'n and earth are full of your glory:

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! 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.

***Hymn of Sending**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky
(New Century Hymnal No.563)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Waltz in D Flat (Op. 64, No. 1)
Frederic Chopin
Daniel Tague

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>

Pray for the Wilderness

Dan Damon, 1989; rev. 1994

1 Pray for the wil - der - ness, van - ish - ing fast,
 2 Learn from the el - e - phant, ea - gle, and whale,
 3 Work for the jus - tice cre - at - ed things need,
 4 Trust that God's Christ o - ver - came nails and wood,
 5 Pray for the at - mos - phere, pray for the sea,

pray for the rain for - est, o - pen and vast;
 learn from the drag - on - fly, spi - der, and snail;
 work for the health of each plant and its seed;
 trust that earth's peo - ple will turn to the good;
 learn from the riv - er, the rock, and the tree;

Pray for the wa - ter - falls, pray for the trees,
 Learn from the peo - ple in neigh - bor - ing lands,
 Work for the crea - tures a - buse has be - trayed,
 Trust that cre - a - tion for - ev - er will grow,
 Work till sha - lom in full har - mo - ny rings.

pray for the plan - et brought down by de - grees.
 learn from the chil - dren who play in their sands.
 work for the gar - den God's wis - dom once made.
 trust that God's good - ness to us o - ver - flows.
 Trust the con - nec - tion of all liv - ing things.

Hymnwriter Dan Damon tried for several months to write a hymn for the earth. A movie about the vanishing rain forest

Tune: WILDERNESS 10.10.10.
 Lee Yu San, 1967

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 mom - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

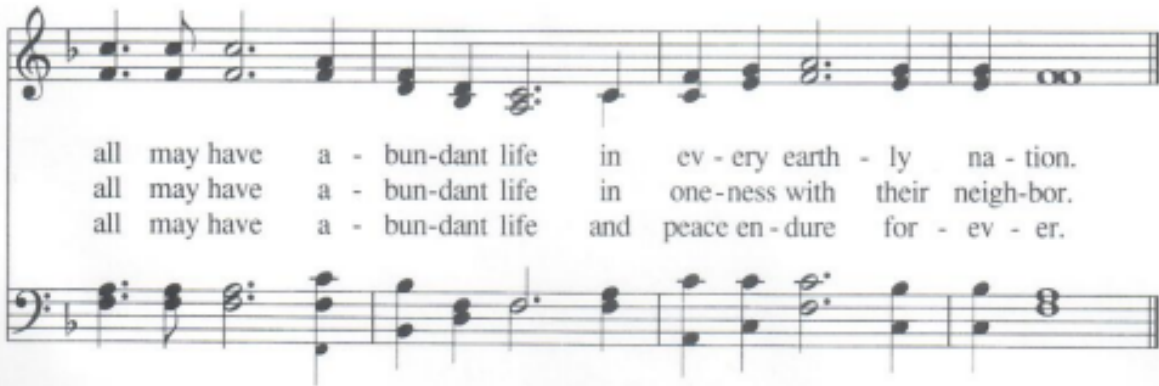
in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

Ruth Duck wrote this text while she was serving as a corporate member of the United Church Board for World Ministries. In it

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
 Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Tunes

STEWARDSHIP AND CREATION



The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves: a vocal line on top and a piano accompaniment on the bottom. The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion. all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor. all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er." The piano accompaniment is written in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.