



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, March 5, 2023

Second 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 *Blessed Assurance*

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 27

Reader: Jerry Coates

One: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Many: God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

Many: Though war rise up against me, yet I will remain confident.

One: One thing I asked of God, that will I seek after:

Many: To live in the house of God all the days of my life.

One: To behold the beauty of God, and to inquire in God's temple.

Many: For God will hide me in God's shelter in the day of trouble;

One: Wait for God and be strong,

Many: Let your heart take courage; wait for God!

***Opening Hymn,**

Change Our Hearts

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 394)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, this Lenten season, help us to give up whatever it is that distracts us from the love and joy to which You created us to live and to be. Help us to give up resentment and become more forgiving.

Help us to give up complaining and be more grateful. Help us to give

up pessimism and become more hopeful. Help us to give up worry

and become more trusting. Help us to give up anger and become

more patient, to give up gloom and become more joyful. O Loving

Creator, help us to release all the things that no longer serve us so that we may walk more fully in the Light of the Christ within us.

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. Thomas Shepherd

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus is speaking to one of the leaders of the Pharisees, a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus is confused about what Jesus means when he talks about being "born again." Jesus explains that it isn't a literal rebirth, but a return to Source. Jesus himself was "born again" when he was baptized by John and somehow, in that process, awakened to his true spiritual identity and spiritual purpose. John didn't impart that new awareness to him; it had been in him all along, just as it is within us. Jesus calls us all to "convert" our lives from a belief system centered on separation from a punishing God to a new awareness of our intimate Oneness with the Power of God. Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). In other words, the "rebirth" is a surrender of human demands and limitations and a return to the Oneness with Spirit that is our true source and identity. The "rebirth" isn't bestowed on us from without; it's about discovering who we truly are. This surrender can't be defined or justified to our mortal mind, any more than people at that time could define the wind, except by feeling its effects as it passed. When we are "born of the Spirit" we express as the wind expresses, in the loving guidance and flow of Holy Spirit. This may seem to the mortal mind like a loss of power and identity; in Truth, however, it represents a new dimension of freedom and empowerment.

Bold Blessing

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Genesis 12:1-4a

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 3:1-17

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Spiritually Reborn,” **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

Offering & Offertory

It's Not Where You Start

Max Brown and Peter Black

Composer: Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields

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**

Ashes

(Green Gather Hymnal No. 838)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Angus Dei

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>

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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

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952

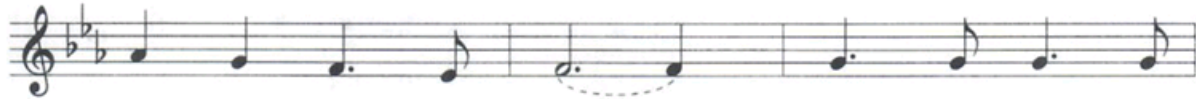
Tune: Rory Cooney, b.1952

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883 Ashes



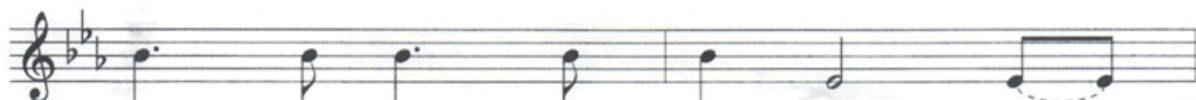
1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the
 2. We of - fer you our fail - ures, we
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let
 4. † Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who



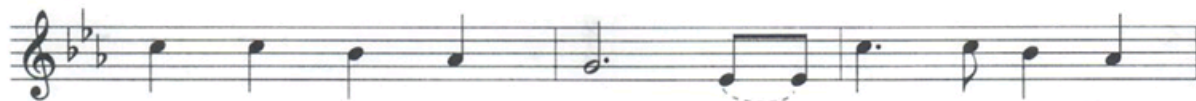
good we've failed to do. We rise a - gain from
 of - fer you at - tempts, The gifts not ful - ly
 heal - ing come to pain, Though spring has turned to
 made us like him - self. Thanks be to the



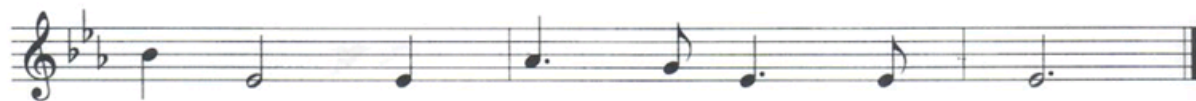
ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If
 giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our
 win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. The
 Son, who saved us by his death.



all our world is ash - es, then
 stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our
 rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre -
 Thanks be to the Spir - it, who cre -



must our lives be true, An of - fer - ing of
 vi - sions wid - er view, An of - fer - ing of
 ate the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of
 ates the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of



ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.