



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, May 29, 2022

Ascension Sunday

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 *Song for the Fallen*
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) *Arise, Shine*

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

And the glory of our God has risen upon you like the sun.

Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.

Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.

Call to Worship

Psalm 47

Reader: Sue Scott

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples.

Many: Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

One: For the Most High is awesome and great over all the earth.

Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises.

One: God has gone up with a shout and the sound of a trumpet.

Many: For God is the ruler of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

One: God is ruler over all the nations; God sits on a holy throne.

Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises. Shout out to God with joy.

***Opening Hymn,**

I'm Pressing On the Upward Way (Higher Ground)

(Black New Century Hymnal No.442)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

On this Memorial Day weekend, we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, for opportunities to flourish. Thank you, Loving Creator, for a day set apart, not just for celebration, but also for solemn remembrance of those who have given their lives for these freedoms. Even as we remember those who have given their lives in the past, we also think about the men and women who are serving in places of conflict today. Protect and encourage them. God of peace, stir in the hearts of leaders of all nations. Give them a passion for peace. Dear God, help us to establish true peace and justice in this world and experience heaven here on earth. 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** *Draw the Circle Wide*

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

(repeat after verse)

Words of Integration & Guidance

By Richard Rohr

Everything that happens to Jesus must happen in our individual souls as well. The Incarnation means the divine indwelling is not “out there.” It happens within us. This movement from Jesus to the Christ means that the same anointing that was given to Jesus is given to all of us. That’s why Jesus didn’t say, “Worship me.” He said, “Follow me.” We’ve projected more onto Jesus than he ever asked for. Also, Jesus didn’t move from Jesus to the Christ without death and resurrection, so we ourselves don’t move from our independent, historical body to the Christ consciousness without dying to our false self. We, like Jesus himself, have to let go of who we think we are, and who we think we need to be. We have to become the naked self before the naked God. That will always feel like dying. We need to know, experientially, that our naked, undecorated self is already and forever the beloved child of God. Jesus’ life is also our life. Carl Jung called Christ the archetype of the soul. Jesus came forth from God, was initiated in baptism, went through a normal growing up, then he developed a ministry, was rejected, suffered, died and ascended -- returned back to where he came from. We all go through that journey of transformation that returns us to where we began but with a freer consciousness. Unfortunately, we’ve turned Christianity into that evacuation plan for the next world. The term “cosmic Christ” reminds us that everything and everyone belongs. We’re indeed the body of Christ. God’s hope for humanity is that one day we will all recognize that the divine dwelling place is all of creation. Christ comes again whenever we see that matter and spirit coexist. This truly deserves to be called good news.

Ascension Sunday

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Acts 1:1-11

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:44-53

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

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

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

Homily

“Spiritual Ascension”

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *“Spirit in the Sky”*

Max Brown and Peter Black

Composers: Norman Greenbaum

A Higher Place

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: **Alleluia!**

One: O God,

Many: **Hear our prayer.**

***Doxology** *Give Thanks to the Lord*

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good, and God’s mercy shall endure.

For God alone has done marv’lous things, give thanks unto the Lord.

God made the earth and heaven with a strong and mighty hand.

God has moved us to sing, proclaim this song! Give thanks unto our God.

***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** *Patriquin*

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes, who come in God's name. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *Let Us Talents (NC#347)*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

(First time quietly, second time louder with more energy)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

Always and Everywhere

***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** *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*
(Black New Century Hymnal No.474)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude *I'll Fly Away*
Peter Black

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and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

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

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I'm Pressing on the Upward Way (Higher Ground)

Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1892; alt.

1 I'm press-ing on the up-ward way, new heights I'm gain-ing ev-ery
 2 My heart has no de-sire to stay where doubts a-rise and fears dis-
 3 I want to live be-yond the world, though Sa-tan's darts at me are
 4 I want to scale the ut-most height, and catch a gleam of glo-ry

day; Still pray-ing as I'm on-ward bound, "O plant me,
 may; Though some may dwell where these a-bound, my prayer, my
 hurled; For faith has caught a joy-ful sound, the song of
 bright; But still I'll pray till heaven I've found, "God, lead me

Refrain

God, on high-er ground."
 aim is high-er ground. O lift me up, and I shall be by faith in heaven e-ter-nal-ly,
 saints on high-er ground.
 on to high-er ground."

A high-er plane than I have found, O plant me, God, on high-er ground.

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

474

African-American spiritual

1 I'm so glad, Je-sus lift-ed me, I'm so glad,
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, Je-sus lift-ed me, when I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift - ed me, I'm so glad,
Je - sus lift - ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
Je - sus lift - ed me, when I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift-ed me, sing-ing glo-ry, hal - le - lu - jah, Je - sus lift-ed me.