

Order of Service for Sunday, November 12, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, <u>visit this week's</u> <u>E-Pistle here</u>, 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 Pachelbel's Abide With Me

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) In This Place

In this place among these people,
God is worshiped, God is praised.
We have seen the signs and wonders,
the lost are found here; the dead are raised.
We are living the gospel story,
lives are changed and mountains moved.
Won't you come and work among us?
You are welcome, you are loved.

Call to Worship

Psalm 70

Reader: Carol Rice

One: Let all who seek God rejoice and be glad.

Many: Let those who love God proclaim, "God is great!"

One: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

Many: O God, make haste to help me!

One: I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

Many: You are my help and my deliverer; O God, do not delay!

One: Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

Many: Let those who love your salvation say, "God is great!" Amen.

*Opening Hymn, Awake, O Sleeper

(Green Gather Hymnal No.803)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Prayer for Veterans Day

Loving God, today we remember all those who have served in our country's armed forces to preserve the freedoms you have granted us. For the veterans of past wars who bear scars in their bodies and spirits, we ask your blessing. For veterans who came home but couldn't "fit in" with their families or communities anymore, we ask your blessing. Keep all our veterans in your care today. Grant them the peace they sought to preserve for others. As we honor our veterans, we also pray for peace. Teach all your people the ways of peace that those who have sacrificed so much for peace and freedom will not have done so in vain. 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

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

Rev. Rueben P. Job

The desire to listen is indeed a reflection of our desire to love God and to love our neighbors. Instead of constantly being on the lookout for a solution out there, why not consider preparing our inner hearts to listen inside? I know there are many Christians who are passionate about Christ and are earnest about living out their faith. The struggle is about how they live out a guiet faith in a noisy world. It all begins at home in our hearts. It starts with listening, praying, contemplating, and deliberating our actions. I know of people who tend to see the practice of faith daily as an either-or option. Some say that they need to begin the day well with their devotional or "quiet time" in order to make their day right. Others say that due to practical considerations, they can only do their devotionals at the end of the day. Yet, others may say that an appropriate combination of the two is more important. Maybe I can propose an alternative. This is what I call a disposition approach. Train ourselves to be willing to listen at all times, especially in our waking hours. This is because God cannot be bounded only to our desk or during moments of our "Quiet Time." God can speak anytime, anywhere, and anyhow. God can even choose not to say anything at any given circumstance. Like today's parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, we need always to keep our lamps filled with oil. In the same light, we need to keep our attentiveness to God full at all times.

Tending God's Light

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily "Keeping Our Lamps Filled"

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering

& Offertory Song "You Are the Light of the World"

Jeff Spangler, Lauri Donaldson, and Peter Black

Composer: Paul A. Tate

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

*Doxology Give Thanks

Give thanks, with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks, because God's given
Jesus Christ, the son.
And now, let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done, for us, give thanks.

*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 You Are Holy

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near,
Blessed are you coming here
to the church in wine and bread;
raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, You are wholeness,
You are present, let the cosmos praise you God!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah our God.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread We Share a Hunger

We share a hunger: a hunger for justice in our world, that all may find joy, all may find wholeness, all may find peace. We share a hunger: a hunger to feel the light of Christ shining through us, shining on all, bringing God's reign.

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 This Little Light of Mine

(Green Gather Hymnal No.513)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

*Benediction

Postlude Eternal Father, Strong to Save

(The Navy Hymn) arr by Larry Shackley

Peter Black

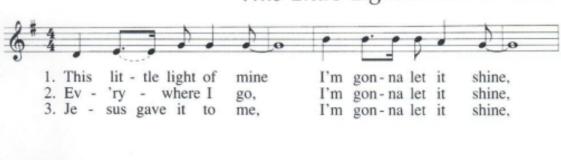
Keep up with the Douglas UCC community and the work of our service groups here:

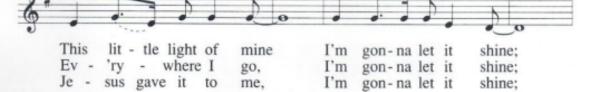
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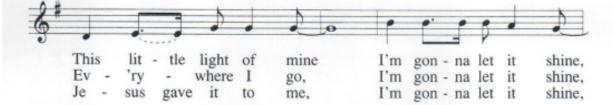
803 Awake, O Sleeper



This Little Light of Mine 513









Text: African-American spiritual Tune: African-American spiritual; harm, by Horace Clarence Boyer