



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**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, [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** *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 quiet 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:

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)

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

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

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

## 803 Awake, O Sleeper

## Refrain

A - wake, O sleep-er, a - rise from death, a - ban-don the shad-ows of  
 night; the wind of the spir-it shall be your breath, and  
 Christ will fill you with light.

## Verses 1, 2

1. Once you were dark-ness, once you were lost in the  
 2. Live as God's peo - ple, live as God's jus - tice and  
 shad - ows. Once you were dark-ness,  
 mer - cy, filled with com - pas - sion,  
 now you are chil-dren of light.  
 filled with the pow - er of love.

D.C.

## Verse 3

3. Shine out with the splen-dor of love, shine with  
 jus-tice and right-ous-ness. Sing the mu-sic your spir-it has  
 heard, the songs of glo-ry and light.

D.C.

## This Little Light of Mine 513



1. This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,  
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,  
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,



This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine;  
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine;



This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,  
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,



Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.