



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, November 5, 2023

Twenty-third 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 *El Shaddai*
(Michael Card)
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

adapted from Psalm 133

Reader: Greg Sherman

One: Though we may be inclined to righteousness, let us come together with humility.

Many: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: Though we may be tempted to use harsh words, let us come together with gentleness.

Many: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: Though we may want everything to happen quickly, let us come together with patience.

Many: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: Though the world around often encourages hate, let us come together in love.

Many: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity,

Many: Let us worship the God who has called us together. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

We Are the Light of the World (v 1-4)

(Green Gather Hymnal No.508)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, You have blessed us with many saints throughout our lives, those who have touched us with their compassion, and those who illumine the way for us. You surround us with saints, even when we don't recognize or much less appreciate them. Today, we remember the saints who have already gone home to You, as well as those saints who are currently in our midst. Help us also to remember that we, too, have been called to be saints for one another. For all the saints of every age, we give to You, O God, our gratitude, and our praise. 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

Mary Ann Brussat

A story is told about a man who asked his rabbi why people could no longer reach high enough to see God's face. The rabbi replied, "Learn to bend, to bow, to kneel and you will be able to see God face-to-face." This story reminds us of another saying: "The door to the kingdom of God is exactly as high as you are when you walk on your knees." If you are standing tall, full of pride, you can't get through. You see, the spiritual life is not about upward mobility, but about downward mobility. When Jesus' disciples were arguing over who among them was the greatest, Jesus knelt before them and washed their feet. He was demonstrating to them what it means to be humble. With humility, we accept our place as equals among others. We recognize that we are no more important than anyone else. In our culture, the opposite behavior is often promoted. You can't get ahead, we're told, unless you climb the corporate ladder and make it to the top. And, there are still many of us who equate humility with low self-regard. But as a slogan from Alcoholics Anonymous puts it, "The challenge is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less often." Humility means not putting yourself either above or below others; it means not thinking about your position on a scale. Humility comes naturally to some people, but usually it needs to be learned. We become humble by being around humble people and by consciously acknowledging that we are not number one. Humility is an essential quality we all must have if we wish to grow spiritually.

Partners in Service

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-9

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 23:1-12

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Exalted and Humbled”

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering

& Offertory Song

Sabbath

Shirley Lawson

Composers: Shirley Lawson and Robin Haaksma

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**

We Are Called
(Green Gather Hymnal No.718)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Hiding Place/Give Thanks
Robin Haaksma

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>

508 We Are the Light of the World

Verses



1. Bless - ed are they who are poor in spir - it,
 2. Bless - ed are they who are meek and hum - ble,
 3. Bless - ed are they who will mourn in sor - row,
 4. Bless those who hun - ger and thirst for jus - tice,
 5. Bless - ed are they who show oth - ers mer - cy,
 6. Bless - ed are hearts that are clean and ho - ly,
 7. Bless - ed are those who bring peace a - mong us,
 8. Bless those who suf - fer from per - se - cu - tion,



Theirs is the king - dom of God. Bless us, O Lord, make us
 They will in - her - it the earth. Bless us, O Lord, make us
 They will be com - fort - ed. Bless us, O Lord, when we
 They will be sat - is - fied. Bless us, O Lord, hear our
 They will know mer - cy, too. Bless us, O Lord, hear our
 They will be - hold the Lord. Bless us, O Lord, make us
 They are the chil - dren of God. Bless us, O Lord, may your
 Theirs is the king - dom of God. Bless us, O Lord, when they



poor in spir - it;
 meek and hum - ble;
 share their sor - row;
 cry for jus - tice;
 cry for mer - cy;
 pure and ho - ly;
 peace be with us;
 per - se - cute us;

Bless us, O Lord, our God.

Refrain



We are the light of the world, May our light shine be - fore all,



That they may see the good that we do, And give glo - ry to God.

We Are Called 718

Verses



1. Come! Live in the light!
 2. Come! O - pen your heart!
 3. Sing! Sing a new song!



Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are
 Show your mer - cy to all those in fear! We are
 Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will



called to be light for the king - dom, to
 called to be hope for the hope - less, so all
 reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God!
 ha - tred and blind - ness will be no more!
 sis - ters and broth - ers u - ni - ted in love!

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly, we are called to serve one an - oth - er;



to walk hum - bly with God!