



Order of Service for Sunday, November 7, 2021

24th Sunday after Pentecost

***= stand if you wish, and are able.**

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:

Prelude, *Simple Gifts*, 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, *Love and Justice*

*Love and Justice, Peace and Power, show us how to live each hour.
Raise us up, and set us free, show us how to live and be.
Tell your neighbors, tell your friends, here's a place hope never ends.
Love and Justice, Peace and Power, God is with us in this hour.
God is with us in this hour, God is with us in this hour,
God is with us in this hour.*

Call to Worship (Psalm 146)

One: Praise be to God! Praise God, O my soul!

All: I will praise God as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: Happy are those whose help is from God, whose hope is in God.

All: God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; God is faithful forever.

One: God sets the prisoners free; God opens the eyes of those who cannot see.

All: God lifts up those who are bowed down; God watches over the stranger.

One: God will reign forever, for all generations.

All: Praise be to God! Praise God, O my soul!

Opening Hymn, *Harvest of Justice (Refrain, vs 1-3, Green Gather Hymnal No.711)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, I know that my life is a channel for Your ever-present good. Yet, just as water channels can get clogged, so my life can feel obstructed with ideas of fear, greed, lack, and unforgiveness. Help me to remember, O God, that I control the flow of divine substance in my life with my attitudes, thoughts, and actions. Help me to clear any debris from my mind and open myself to a greater flow of good. Help me to keep my thoughts on gratitude and trust the constant flow of good in my life. I participate in the circulation of blessings by giving generously and knowing I will receive in abundance. 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, Fill Me*

*Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.
Help me give my hand to those in need,
let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love, we can work together
to heal this broken world.
Spirit come and fill us, fill us with your peace,
fill us with your joy and your love,
Spirit come and show us, show us how to care,
show us how to share your light.*

Words of Integration & Guidance by Rev. Nancy Piggott, UCC Minister

I confess to occasional thoughts as I notice self-storage units along roadsides. How does one keep so much stuff that there is not enough room in the house for all of it? Then I catch myself, because my hidden self-storage unit is the unfinished part of our basement. Every time I cart another box of “treasures” into our basement, I sheepishly remind myself, “Our kids are going to hate me.” The glare of my own hypocrisy sends me into a dark corner to pray a prayer of Henri Nouwen’s: Dear God, I am so afraid to open my clenched fists! Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to? Who will I be when I stand before you with empty hands? Please help me to gradually open my hands to discover that I am not what I own, but that I am what you want to give me. Amen. Money is a topic most of us think should not be discussed in church, yet nearly two-thirds of Jesus’ parables pertain, in some way, to wealth or possessions. He was really concerned about the effect that has on our spiritual life. What Jesus is confronting is that our possessions are taking up so much space. What Jesus is asking each of us is, “What matters to you, finally?” The kind of materialism Jesus calls us to promises not a bigger collection of stuff, but a deeper engagement with people, particularly people in need. Being rich from Jesus’ perspective means emptying ourselves of surplus to create more justice and love. There are so many places where our energy, our ideas, our love could make all the difference. God is calling us to act, to use our energy, our resources, our time and talent to help others while at the same time enriching our relationship with God and humanity. We can become collaborators with God by using our surplus to create a world of liberty and justice for all.

Giving And Receiving

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from **Ruth 3:15, 4:13-17**

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

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 12:38-44**

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Treasure Principle,” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *“Grace and Gratitude”*

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Songwriters: Olivia Newton-John and Amy Sky

Attitude of Gratitude

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** *Sanctus (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 comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the high – est!*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

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

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

In Giving, We Receive

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & 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** *Whatsoever You Do (vs 1-3, Green Gather Hymnal No.670)*

***Benediction**

Postlude *Lord, Listen to Your Children*, Peter Black

Have a great week! 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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