



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, October 29, 2023

Twenty-second 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 *Love Lifted Me*
(arr. by James Koerts)
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

for All Saints Day

Reader: Robert Trenary

One: Those who cared for, nurtured and protected us

Many: They are always with us.

One: Those who have loved us unselfishly

Many: They are always with us.

One: Those who have inspired us to greater things

Many: They are always with us.

One: Those who have listened to us when we were struggling

Many: They are always with us.

One: Those who shared their wisdom with us and enabled us to see more of the truth

Many: They are always with us.

***Opening Hymn,**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

(Black New Century Hymnal No.295)

(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

by Mahmoud Darwish

On our last evening on this land we chop our days
from our young trees, count the ribs we'll take with us
and the ribs we'll leave behind... On the last evening
we bid nothing farewell, nor find the time to end...
Everything remains as it is, it is the place that changes our dreams
and its visitors. Suddenly we're incapable of irony,
this land will now host atoms of dust... Here, on our last evening,
we look closely at the mountains besieging the clouds: a conquest...
and a counter-conquest,
and an old time handing this new time the keys to our doors.
So enter our houses, conquerors, and drink the wine
of our mellifluous Mouwashah. We are the night at midnight,
and no horseman will bring dawn from the sanctuary of the last Call to
Prayer...
Our tea is green and hot; drink it. Our pistachios are fresh; eat them.
The beds are of green cedar, fall on them,
following this long siege, lie down on the feathers of our dreams.
The sheets are crisp, perfumes are ready by the door, and there are plenty
of mirrors:
enter them so we may exit completely. Soon we will search
in the margins of your history, in distant countries,
for what was once our history.
And in the end we will ask ourselves:
Was Andalusia* here or there? On the land...or in the poem?

*Al-Andulus (now Spanish Andalusia) is considered the apex of Islamic culture in Europe and the Mediterranean; a world center of scholarship, philosophy and science from approx. 700 – 1492.

The Compassionate Life

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Lamentations 5:1-21

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 22:34-46

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“For All the Saints”

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory Song

Love Will Be Our Home

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composer: Stephen Curtis Chapman

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.*

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**AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION TODAY, PLEASE EXIT THE CHURCH
AND PROCEED TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN Remembrance of Names
The Lord's Prayer & Benediction Closing Hymn "Amazing Grace"**

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>

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*Unison**Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.*

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, faith-ful their whole lives
 2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them
 3 They lived not on-ly in a-ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they
 strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their
 still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, and an-
 whole lives long. And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest, and an-
 do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth-er a shep-herd in pas-tures green: they were saints of God, if you
 oth-er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea-son,
 church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.
 none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.
 you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.