



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, September 10, 2023

Fifteenth 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.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude 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 worshipped, 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.

(repeat after verse)

Call to Worship

Psalm 140

Reader: Julie Ridl

One: Sing to the Lord a new song in the assembly of all God's people.

Many: Let Israel be glad and the children of Zion rejoice in their Creator.

One: Let us praise God's name with dancing, making melody to God with tambourine and lyre.

Many: For God takes pleasure in the people and adorns them with great joy.

One: Let us exult the Lord in glory and sing to our God with praise.

Many: Let the high praises of God be in our throats and in our hearts.

One: Sing a new song unto the Lord. Let our song be heard from every mountainside.

Many: This is glory for all God's faithful ones. Thanks be to God!

***Opening Hymn,**

No Longer Strangers

(Green Gather Hymnal No.734)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, be with our students and teachers at the start of this new school year. We ask that You give them [peace](#) and courage as they begin a new year of classes together. Bless their hard work over the coming months. Surprise them with unexpected moments of joy. Give teachers wisdom, creativity, and discernment as they lead their students this year. Remind them that they are not alone and their work is not in vain. Move in close, O God, and let them sense Your presence and Your delight. Give them Your peace, patience, and joy as they navigate a new school year together. 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 Rev. Ed Townley

In today's gospel reading, Jesus is instructing his disciples on how they are to carry his message forward. He is speaking not simply as Jesus of Nazareth, but as Jesus, the Christ—the Presence of God that he is realizing and that he calls us to realize within ourselves. What's interesting about this passage, I think, is the practical instruction on how to express our innate Christ energy. Jesus says, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." By "earth" Jesus is describing this mortal experience, and by "heaven" he is naming the innate spiritual Power that is our true identity. And if we take it to the next stage—"where two or three are gathered"—we are clearly and firmly linked to our shared creative power. "I AM" is the name of God given to Moses through the burning bush. "I AM" is the statement with which we claim and express our own Christ Power. When we gather for that purpose, and when we commit our shared Christ energy toward a creative intention, then the infinite energy and love of Jesus Christ is present to augment our own intentions. This is the very essence of prayer. There is infinite Power even in our most personal, intimate prayer intentions. But that Power increases exponentially when we come together—not to beseech a distant God, but to share a creative intention—to combine our personal I AM intentions to bring a healing, empowering expression of divine love into expression in this life experience.

Remember, Restore, Renew

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Romans 13:8-14

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 18:15-20

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Gathered Together" Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory Song

Fly Together

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composers: Rory & Claire Cooney

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology**

Hold Me in Your Arms, Mother Earth

Hold me in your arms, Mother Earth. Let me see the wonders you share.

I will hold you in my heart, Mother Earth. Bless the land, the water, the air.

For the forest, green and tall, ever breathing, sheltering.

Home to creatures, great and small, I give thanks, praise I sing.

Hold me in your arms, Mother Earth. Let me see the wonders you share.

I will hold you in my heart, Mother Earth. Bless the land, the water, the air.

***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**

They'll Know We Are Christians
(Green Gather Hymnal No.735)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

I've Got Peace Like a Riverside
Peter Black

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>

No Longer Strangers 734

Verses



1. We once were lost; without
 2. We once were cut off; but now
 3. We who once were dead, now we



hope, with - out God; but now in Christ
 we are brought near, for Christ is our
 live in the light, we fol - low Christ

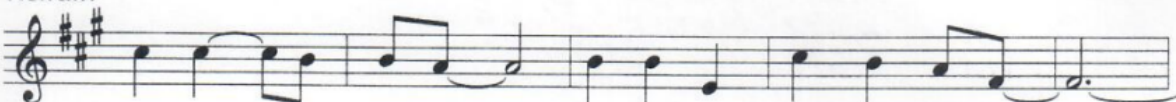


Je - sus, we have been found!
 peace, we were bro - ken, now whole! One
 Je - sus, a - bun - dant in grace! Who



Saved by the prom-ise of God!
 spir - it, one Bod - y of Christ!
 saved us, who raised us to life!

Refrain



No long - er stran-gers, no long-er lost and a - lone!



No long - er stran-gers, now we are saints! We are



one in the house of God!

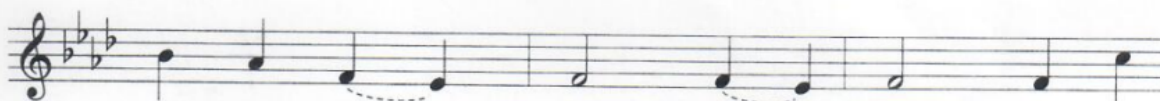
735 They'll Know We Are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



one in the Lord, We are one in the
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
 work side by side, We will work with each
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:
 land:
 pride:
 one:
 And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.