



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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 *Morning Has Broken*
(arr. by Larry Shackley) Piano - Adelle VanDaalen/Keyboard - 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 103

Reader: Stan Greene

One: Bless God, O my soul, and all that is within me,

Many: Bless the holy name of God who forgives all iniquity.

One: Bless God who heals and redeems with steadfast love and mercy.

Many: Bless the holy name of God who satisfies us with good as long as we live.

One: God works for vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

Many: God is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: So great is God's steadfast love towards us, removing our transgressions.

Many: As a father and mother have compassion for their children, so God has compassion for us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

(Green Gather Hymnal No.726)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, every now and then, we all fall short of our highest and best selves. When we become aware of this in ourselves or in another, help us to remember the voice of Jesus saying, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' Help us to look beyond our own behavior or that of another and accept the peace of forgiveness. In forgiving ourselves and others, we are set free. 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 Rosemary Fillmore Rhea

As we look at our conflicted world, we might agree that the one most needed ingredient to bring forth universal peace and harmony is the attribute of forgiveness. Across the centuries, there have been religious feuds, ethnic feuds, family feuds—feuds that continue from generation to generation. The memories of past injustices roll down through the ages, and few people seem willing to forgive or forget. So, to heal our world, we must learn the art of forgiveness. The healing process must begin with us. How can we do it? How can we learn to forgive when the world teaches us that those who have caused us pain and sorrow must be punished? The answer lies within us—in that part of us which knows it is only through forgiveness that we can find freedom and wholeness. If someone has hurt us deeply, this might seem an almost impossible assignment, but Jesus knew we must forgive if we are to have peace and harmony. That's not to say that we must accept bad behavior or that we should stay in abusive relationships. On the contrary, to do this is to not respect ourselves and certainly not to help the abuser. However, it is not our responsibility to try to change others. It is our responsibility to release them to God. We can do this through the power of love. The greatest gift we can give others is our faith that God's healing love is at work within them, bringing forth peace and harmony into their souls as well as into ours. When we let go and let God, we free both of us. As we forgive, so we are forgiven.

Remember, Restore, Renew

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Genesis 50:15-21
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 18:21-35
Many: Glory to you, O Christ.
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"The Power of Forgiveness"

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory Song

Peter Black

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**

Let There Be Peace on Earth
(Green Gather Hymnal No.731)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Let All Things Now Living

(arr. by Teresa Wilhelmi)

Piano - Adelle VanDaalen/Keyboard - 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>

726 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Verses 1, 2, 4



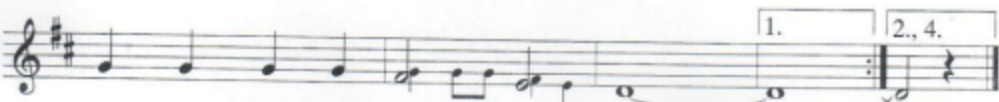
1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha - tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, And
 there is dark - ness, on - ly light, And
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
 dy - ing that we're born to e - ter-nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con-



soled as to con - sole. To be un-der-stood as to un-der -



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

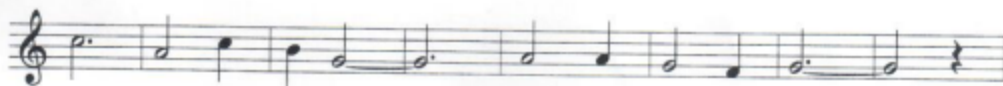
731 Let There Be Peace on Earth



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.



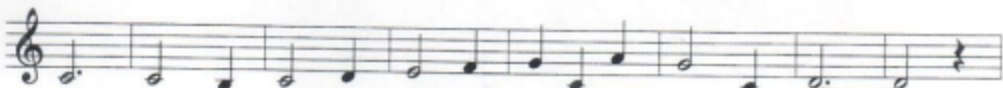
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With



God as our Fa-ther, broth - ers
fam - 'ly all are we.



Let me walk with my broth-er
us each oth-er in per-fect har-mo - ny.



Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.



With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow; To



take each mo - ment, and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly!



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.