



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, September 18, 2022

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 *Morgenstimmung* from Peer Gynt Suite #1

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)

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

Reader: Greg Sherman

One: We gather to worship God, the Creator and Giver of Life.

Many: God, give us the waters of new life.

One: In the deserts of our lives, in the wilderness within,

Many: God, give us the waters of new life.

One: Give us hope when our lives run dry. Give us strength when our world seems barren.

Many: God, give us the waters of new life.

One: Let peace flow like a river and love spring forth like a fountain,

Many: God, give us the waters of new life.

One: Make justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a living stream.

Many: God, give us the waters of new life.

***Opening Hymn,**

Healing River

(Green Gather Hymnal No.584)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for all of Creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we have failed to be good stewards of our planet. We now ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. Let us pray for: water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds. Let us pray for: air, wind, climate and weather. Let us pray for: animals, especially endangered species. Let us pray for: recycling and moderate personal consumption. Let us pray for: proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Help us, O Creator, to live in harmony, safety and just-sharing of resources among all so that we can help bring about your kingdom of heaven here on this beautiful planet you have entrusted to our care.

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 *Let It Breathe On Me*

*Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,
let the breath of the spirit breathe on me.*

*Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,
Let the breath of God now breathe on me.*

Words of Integration & Guidance

By Rob Sheppard

As a naturalist and a Christian, I am sometimes dismayed at how other Christians treat this gift as if it were not very important. The Bible came through people and then was translated for most of us, but nature comes directly to us from God, not through any intermediary. In nature, we can experience God directly. God can be seen as the ultimate artist, and what a gift God's art is! I think this goes way beyond icons like Yosemite or Yellowstone. There is amazing beauty in the smallest of landscapes, in the smallest of creatures, if we are simply open to it. And there is stunning beauty in the way the natural world works in every ecosystem. There is actually a lot of research now about how important nature is to us. Connecting with nature gives us an increased attention span, a better memory, reduced stress, an improved mood and greater creativity. You do not need to go to Yosemite or any other distant location. These gifts are freely available anywhere there is nature, including our own backyards. In her book, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith writes "Look at everything always as though you were seeing it either for the first or last time: Thus is your time on earth filled with glory." I believe the world was created not just to meet our physical needs but to point us to God. The next time you find yourself outdoors, I encourage you to pray that God will help you look at everything as though you were seeing it either for the first or last time. It will truly make a difference in your life.

Season of Creation

Old Testament Reading

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 55:1-13

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

One: A Reading of Scripture from Colossians 1:15-23

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Homily "Living By Refugia Faith" **Dr. Debra Rienstra**

Offering & Offertory *Bring in the Year of Jubilee*
Ron Rienstra, Jeff Spangler, Nancy Plantinga and Peter Black

Chorus:

Jubilee! Now is the year of God's favor.

Jubilee! Rest for the weary Creation.

Now bring in the year of Jubilee!

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'ulous 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** *Holy Holy Holy*

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 highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *This is the Body of Christ*

This is the body of Christ.

Broken that we may be whole:

This cup, as promised by God,

true to the word, cradles our Lord.

Food for the good of the soul.

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.
Amen.

***Hymn of Sending** *Wade in the Water*
(Green Gather Hymnal No.812)
(Find music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude *The Kingdom is Coming*
Ron Rienstra, Nancy Plantinga,
Jeff Spangler, and 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>

Healing River 584

*Cantor:**

1. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 2. This land is parch-ing, this land is
 3. Let the seed of free - dom, a - wake and

wa - ters, Send down your wa - ters up - on this
 burn-ing, No seed is grow-ing in the bar - ren
 flour-ish, Let the deep roots nour-ish, let the tall stalks

land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 ground. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your

wa - ters, And wash the blood from off the sand.
 wa - ters, O heal-ing riv-er, send your wa - ters down.
 wa - ters, O heal-ing riv-er, from out of the skies.

**The assembly echoes each phrase of the cantor at the interval of one half measure.*

Wade in the Water 812

Refrain

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the
 wa - ter, chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter,
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

Verses

Cantor:

1. See that host all dressed in white,
2. See that band all dressed in red,
3. Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4. If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

All: *Cantor:*

God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; The
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; Looks
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; The
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter; Just

lead - er looks like the Is - ra - el - ite,
 like the band that Mo - ses led,
 Ho - ly Ghost a com - in' on me,
 fol - low me down to Jor - dan's stream,

All: **D.C.**

God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
 God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.