



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, September 25, 2022**

## **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**     *Starry, Starry Night*

**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**

**Proverbs 8**

**Reader: Robert Trenary**

One: Wisdom says, "I am the first of God's acts of old, before Creation began."

**Many: Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.**

One: When God established the heavens, I was already there.

**One: When there were no depths, I was already brought forth.**

One: Before God made the earth with its fields, I was already there.

**Many: Before the mountains had been shaped, I was already brought forth.**

One: When God made firm the skies above, I was already there.

**Many: When God assigned to the sea its limit, I was already brought forth.**

One: There I was beside God as the foundations of the earth were established.

**Many: I was God's daily delight, rejoicing and delighting in God's creation.**

One: Listen to me, O sons and daughters of God: Whoever finds me, finds life.

**Many: Those who seek me diligently will find me, the Wisdom of the Cosmos.**

**\*Opening Hymn,**

*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

(Black New Century Hymnal No.563)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

## **Unison Prayer**

**Loving God, your Spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery. In love, you have formed a universe so diverse yet so related, and into its web you call us forth to walk the land and swim the sea with all our natural brothers and sisters.**

**To the stars we seem no more than blades of grass. Yet to you, each of us, as each blade of grass and each star, is an irreplaceable treasure, an essential companion on this journey of love. Loving God, guide us with your Spirit that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth, but pilgrims with the earth, journeying home to you. Open our hearts to understand the intimate relationship that you have with all creation. 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 *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**

### **Time magazine**

A number of recent books and articles would have you believe that — somehow — science has now disproved the existence of God. We know so much about how the universe works, their authors claim, that God is simply unnecessary: we can explain all the workings of the universe without the need for a Creator. And indeed, science has brought us an immense amount of understanding. We can now claim to know what happened to our universe as early as a tiny fraction of a second after the Big Bang, something that may seem astounding. But does this vast knowledge disprove the existence of some kind of pre-existent outside force that may have launched our universe on its way? Science is an amazing, wonderful undertaking: it teaches us about life, the world, and the universe. But it has not revealed to us why the universe came into existence nor what preceded its birth in the Big Bang. This question has never been answered satisfactorily, and I believe that it will never find a scientific solution. For the deeper we delve into the mysteries of cosmology, the more the universe appears to be intricate and incredibly complex. Why are even the tiniest particles of matter so unbelievably complicated? It appears that there is a vast, hidden “wisdom” for even the most simple-looking element of nature. And the situation becomes much more daunting as we expand our view to the entire cosmos. Why did everything we need in order to exist come into being? How was all of this possible without some latent outside power to orchestrate the precise dance of elementary particles required for the creation of all the essentials of life? Science and religion are two sides of the same deep human impulse to understand the world, know our place in it, and marvel at the wonder of life and the infinite cosmos we are surrounded by. Let’s keep them that way, and not let one attempt to usurp the role of the other.

# Creation Season: Universe

## The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Colossians 1:15-20

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 6:41-51

Many: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

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

Many: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily** "Spirit of the Cosmos" **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

## Offering & Offertory

*Child of the Universe*

**Nancy Plantinga and Peter Black**

Composers: Faith Rivera, Ted Jacobs

## 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**      *Touch the Earth Lightly*  
(Black New Century Hymnal No.569)  
(Find music at the end of this program)

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Then Sings My Soul*  
**Peter Black**

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community  
and the work of our service groups here:

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

# We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

Ruth Duck wrote this text while she was serving as a corporate

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.

STEWARDSHIP AND CREATION

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff.

all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.  
all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

# Touch the Earth Lightly

Unison  
Brightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 199

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 \* 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

\*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.  
Colin Gibson, 1992