



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, September 3, 2023

Fourteenth 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 *Holy Ground*
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) *No Matter*

*No matter who, no matter what, no matter where
you are in the journey of life,
you're welcome, welcome in this place.*

*No matter who, no matter what, no matter where
you are on the journey of life, accepted, welcomed by God's grace.*

(repeat after verse)

Call to Worship

Psalm 105

One: O, give thanks to God and call on God's name.

Many: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

One: Sing to God, sing praises to God.

Many: Tell of all God's wonderful works.

One: Seek God and God's strength.

Many: Seek God's presence continually.

One: Remember the wonderful works God has done.

Many: Recall God's miracles and the words God has uttered.

One: Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Many: Glory in God's holy name! Praise God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

O Grant Us, God, A Little Space

(Black New Century Hymnal No.516)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Prayer for Workers, UCC.org

Loving God: On this Sunday, we ask your special blessing on all people who labor. We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us. Creator God, help us to build a new world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us. 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

The Peace of Christ is Yours

Reach out your hands, accept the gift.

Reach out your hands, accept the gift.

*Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the Peace of Christ is yours!*

And it is free, free, free.

And it is free, free, free.

And it is free, free, free.

The Peace of Christ is Yours!

Words of Integration & Guidance

by Rev. Polly Moore

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine asked if we could talk, so we had lunch together. She poured out her heart about the problems she was having. As she wept, telling her story, my own story suddenly evaporated. She snapped me out of my fixation on me: my needs, my urges, grudges, ideas, plans, schemes, etc., which fill up so much of my life but aren't the essence of my life at all. Later I realized that while I listened, I had an out-of-ego experience. I was there, but only that which was essential about me was present. My ego-self didn't matter to me. Only she mattered. Her story was a sad and hard one, but she did something wonderful for me in sharing it. Her tears crucified my ego, and resurrected God, who is the loving, listening presence within me. The more often we can have what I call "out-of-ego experiences," the happier we'll be. If we can wake up to the fact that our egos are artificial constructions of our minds, then we can live more in harmony with God and with one another. That was the essential message of Jesus. In today's gospel reading, Jesus says: "If anyone wants to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." When Jesus said 'Deny thyself', what he meant was: Negate (and thus undo) the illusion of self. The whole point of the Christian faith is to turn life into an out-of-ego experience in which we live and love and serve from the divine center of our being, which we share with all other beings. The cross is the symbol of the universal human experience, shared across all religions, of the figurative "death" of the ego that resurrects and awakens us to our true divine nature.

Spirit-led Living

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Exodus 3:1-15

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 16:24-28

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"I Am That, I Am." Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *"Great I Am"*

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composer: Jared Anderson

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 will endure.***

***For God alone has done marv'lous 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 the 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 *There is Room for All*

*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all at the table of God's love.*

And I exalt and sing "We do this in remembrance of you."

There is room for all, there is room for all.

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**

Jesus the Christ Says

(Black New Century Hymnal No.48)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

Go Down Moses

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>

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

516

John Ellerton, 1870; alt.



- 1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
- 2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
- 3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;
- 4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
- 5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.



Jesus the Christ Says

Urdu, anon.; alt.

John 6:48; 14:6; 11:25; 8:12; 9:5

Unison

C G/B C Dm/F

1 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the bread, the bread of life for the
 2 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the way, the way and the truth and the
 3 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the light, the one true light of the
 4 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the life, the res - ur - rec-tion and the

C/G G C Dm/F G

world am I. The bread of life for the world am I, the
 life am I. The way and the truth and the life am I, the
 world am I. The one true light of the world am I, the
 life am I. The res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I, the

Am Em G/D D G C G/B

bread of life for the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,
 way and the truth and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,
 one true light of the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,
 res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,

C Em Am Dm G7 C

I am the bread, the bread of life for the world am I.
 I am the way, the way and the truth and the life am I.
 I am the light, the one true light of the world am I.
 I am the life, the res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I.

This anonymous hymn, both text and tune, originated in

Tune: YISU NE KAHA 9.9.9.9.9.