

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 3, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Craig Hink

Teachers, construction workers, parents, clerks, medical staff, community volunteers — on this Labor Day weekend, welcome to worship, where God offers renewal for the work to which you each are called.

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

How shall we live in the love of God?

We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.

How shall we witness God's forgiving love?

We will reach out others with compassion.

Come, let us worship God who has always loved us.

Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace. AMEN.

***Opening Hymn**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#129

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father
And to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

***Apostle's Creed**

In Front of Hymnal

***Sign of Peace and Words of Welcome**

***Scripture**

Matthew 16:21-28 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Hymn *In Christ There is No East or West* **#164**
Sermon "Plotting Course" Craig Hink

Prayers of the People
Pastoral - Silent – Lord's Prayer – Cares Chorus Response

Cares Chorus

I cast all my cares upon You. I lay all of my burdens down
at Your feet. And any time I don't know just what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon You.

Offering our Gifts

Offertory Music

*Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*Offering Prayer (In Unison)

O God, receive these gifts given in your Son's name as we seek to walk in your ways. Use
them to bring the healing, kindness and justice of Christ's humble love to all those in need.

***Closing Hymn** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **#25**

***Benediction**

* Those who are able please stand



Today's Prayer
Lord God, defend your church from all false teaching and give your people knowledge of your
truth, that we may enjoy eternal life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
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