

St Paul's United Church of Christ

June 18, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Brittany Mailleue

Call to Worship

The Lord is in this Holy Temple, let all the children of God rejoice. We are called as family to hold up holy hands and praise the God of justice and liberation for all! Not some, but for all people regardless of where you are on life's journey or who you are in the Kingdom of God.

One: We are here to worship!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: We are here to lift up Holy hands!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: We are the Kingdom of God!

All: Glory Hallelujah. Let us praise the name of the Lord!

Invocation

Gracious and ever-present God, make each of us an instrument of your justice. Continue to weave us into a family, your Kingdom, showing forth your power of healing, feeding, clothing and resurrection as evidenced through the life and ministry of your son Jesus the Christ. Bless us and our differences and sustain our courage to stand together in the face of oppression and injustice in this present world. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Impart to us the knowledge and understanding to better know you and glorify your grace on each and every step of the journey of our lives. In the name of Jesus, who came in the name of love, let us now commit to shout with the voice of triumph and proclaim the love and grace of God to all the world.

One: Let all the Kingdom of God shout "Victory"

Many: Over Oppression!

One: Shout "Victory"

Many: Over Injustice!

One: Shout "Victory"

Many: Through Jesus the Christ

All: Amen and Amen

***Hymn-**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

#306 New Century Hymnal

***Confession**

We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame. Let us confess our sin to almighty God. (*silence*)

***Words of Grace**

Just as Jesus endowed his disciples, his family, with moments of rest and amazement, it is good for us, kinfolk, to bask in the glorious and loving presence of God. Fortunately, God does not condemn us when we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into difficult, tough, unfamiliar or even mundane places and spaces. But I'm so glad that with grace and compassion, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit lifts, informs and propels us in the direction we should go to heal, deliver and resurrect.

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Lift us!

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Inform us!

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Propel us!

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Shower us with your Grace and Mercy!

All: Amen and Amen!

Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Time with the Children

Scripture: [Matthew 9:35—10:8 \[9-23\]](#)

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."]

Sermon

Prayers of the People**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts

Invitation A generous life counters the societal norms that depend on scarcity. Our Loving God creates in abundance so that all may live a full and flourishing life. When we give from our abundance, we proclaim our trust in God's provision and our love of neighbor.

Offertory*** The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*** Offering Prayer:**

Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.

*** Closing Hymn**

God be With You

#81 New Century Hymnal

Benediction

May the glory of God transform you.

May the Holy Spirit revive you.

May you embrace difference as strength.

May you reach the high and low places.

May you spread the Good News of relationship.

May you be renewed and empowered to an ethic of inclusion, care, mutual support, solidarity, and unity that calls us to treat one another as family.

May thy Kindom come.

For the glory of God and the hope of the world.

Go in peace and Kinship to serve.

Amen

*** Postlude**