

St.Paul's United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 24, 2023
9:30 a.m.

Rev Margaret Isaacson

I come today with much on my mind, Lord. Gently ease it from my hands, heart and thoughts so I can focus on you and your goodness.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Again and again, Jesus calls us to be pure of heart.

God desires truth in our innermost being.

God looks not at the external, but at our internal lives.

Are we truthful and merciful? Are we humble and genuine?

Do our actions and attitudes match?

Do we live with authenticity and integrity?

Blessed are the pure in heart.

For they shall see God.

All praise and thanks to God in whose image we are made! Hallelujah!

***Opening Hymn**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#305

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess that, in a culture that places so much emphasis on external beauty, outward signs of success and "having it all together," we struggle to live from the inside out. We feel the pressure to look and act like something we are not. We don our masks, pretend that things are fine, and keep our vulnerabilities hidden safely away. We feel ever more isolated and afraid of being rejected. O God, remind us again of the healing power of your love. Call us again into the light where truth and grace shine. Take our guilt, shame and fear and in their place renew us with your forgiveness and acceptance. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

***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.

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

Please extend a word of welcome and friendship to those seated near you.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer – 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.

Scripture Readings **Jonah 3:10 - 4:11**

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

Hymn

Have Thine Own Way

#170

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)**

In gratitude for your love, which never lets us go, we bring you our gifts, O God.
Help us to give with generous grace and to love lavishly as you have so loved us. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah *#276*

***Benediction**

* Those who are able please stand

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