

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Sunday, October 8, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Rev. Robert Fellows**

**Prelude
Ringing of the Bell**

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: For earth we give you thanks, O God. For blue heaven we give you thanks. For rest we give you thanks. For work we give you thanks.

All: For meaning that is simple and sacred, for bonding of family and friendship and church, for the possibility to hope and live into the future, we give you thanks.

One: For the light of day and darkness gentle in the night, for the turning seasons of the year and the celebrations by which we mark our time, we give you thanks.

All: For the gospel story, for the salvation of souls, for the promise of life eternal, we give you thanks and praise. God of holiness and splendor, we gather together in the name of the One who makes all love incarnate, Christ Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn Come, Ye Thankful People, Come #42**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***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.**

***Prayer of Confession**

Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation. You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. Thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

New mercies are granted daily and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good. **Amen.**

Liturgy for the Blessing of a New Ministry

Moderator: Dear Christian friends, baptized in the priesthood of Christ, we are called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today we give thanks to God for the ministry that God has given to the people of St. Paul's Church, and for the faithful service of its members, former pastors, and pulpit supply preachers. Now we begin a new part of the journey with our bridge pastor Rev. Robert Fellows. We ask God's guidance for our ministry as we join together in prayer.

All: Gracious God, you have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we begin a new chapter. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we might be prepared for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bridge Pastor: As we begin this interim time together, we begin new relationships. I have been called as your pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the gospel among you. I will pray for you, listen to you, and assist you in the affairs of the church, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

Congregation: And we, the people of St. Paul's Church, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service, and stewardship.

Bridge Pastor: May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this interim journey. May we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

**** Sunday School Classes meet at the alter ****

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Message for All Ages

***Hymn**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#305

Sermon The Ten Commandments Rev. Robert Fellows

Prayer Requests Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer
Cares Chorus

I cast all my cares upon you.
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.

Offertory - Sharing God's Gifts to Strengthen Our World

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.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful #31 NC**

***Benediction**

Postlude

*** Those who are able please stand**