St.Paul's United Church of Christ Sunday, October 15, 2023 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Rev. Robert Fellows

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We wait for God that God might save us.

All: Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

One: God will swallow up death forever and will wipe away the tears from all faces.

All: Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

One: God will take away all reproach and will make a feast for the peoples of the earth.

All: Let us act with compassion so that we may dry tears. Let us walk with justice so that we may silence reproach. Let us make festival with all people so that God's feast may be well-prepared.

Invocation

One: Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together.

All: Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. So may your church bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.

*Hymn We Gather Together #4

*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

Holy One, help us be still and know that you are God. Too often we move at such a hectic pace that we neglect our relationship with you. We do not perceive the world as you do. We look to those with flashy fame, the grand gestures, worldly achievements, and unreachable standards. Our lives become full of distractions that are nothing but shifting sand. Restore and strengthen us, O God, to rebuild our lives on the foundation of your Word, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

** Sunday School Classes enter worship **

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:1-14

Message for All Ages

*Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! #19 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Sermon Our Idols and Distractions Rev. Robert Fellows

Prayer Requests

Cares Chorus

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 They'll Know We Are Christians Insert

*Benediction

Postlude

^{*} Those who are able please stand