

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

9:30 A.M.

CRAIG HINK

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Word is a lamp and a light. The word illuminates our life.

People: We welcome The Word with praise and thanksgiving.

Leader: The Word comes from the mouth of God and accomplishes its purpose.

People: We hear The Word that loves and embraces, challenges and convicts, renews and restores.

Leader: The Word is life, offers a future with hope, and creates peace in the midst of the storm.

People: We receive The Word among us with rejoicing. We worship The Word in spirit and in truth!

***Opening Hymn**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

#87

***Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)**

Creator, your presence among us illuminates our lives. Make us fertile soil, receptive to the seeds planted by your word. Nourish us with Living Water and grow us through the energy of your empowered and healing rays of sunshine. Let us encounter you afresh as we gather in community. May our worship show our love for you and each other. Make your presence known to us and through us for your glory. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:1-11

Life in the Spirit

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit[a] of life in Christ Jesus has set you[b] free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin,[c] he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.[d] 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit[e] set their minds on the things of the Spirit.[f] 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but

to set the mind on the Spirit[g] is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,[h] since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit[i] is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ[j] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through[k] his Spirit that dwells in you.

SERMON

"MY FAVORITE THINGS"

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

#79

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer – Lord's Prayer – Cares Chorus Response

OFFERING

Invitation & Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

***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. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us and through us with abundance and flourishing. Give us generous hearts. May our offerings offer a testimony honoring your provision and giving glory to your name. Receive these gifts and magnify them for the needs of your creation. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart"

#156

Benediction

Let us go from this time of word and worship to word and witness. May the moments, movement, and ministry of our lives reveal the God we know and love to a world we know and love. May our voices echo the rhythm and message of good news to a world in need of encouragement, community, and hope. Go in peace...go as peace fortified and nurtured by The Word.