# St. Paul's United Church of Christ SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023 9:30 A.M. REV HANK CAMPBELL

**ORGAN PRELUDE** 

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

## \*Call to Worship

L: Like a tree planted by the river,

P: We have sunk our roots in God's love.

L: Like the leaves bouncing with ease,

P: We have danced in the breath of the Spirit.

L: Like the small nest in the crook of a branch,

P: We have found rest in the arms of God.

L: Like a bird pouring out sweet melodies,

P: We have raised our voices in praise. Amen

\*Opening Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

#34

# \*Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of beginning again. Thank you for the reminder in the water we touch and taste every day, that you are the God of creation and re-creation. You are the God of all of life. You are the God of sustenance and renewal. Bless us this day. Wash us in your grace. Shower us with your love. Hold us accountable, and redeemable, and make new hearts within us that follow you. Amen.

#### \*Silent Confession

\*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**

Matthew 13:31 - 33

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of was leavened."

<sup>\*</sup>Words of Assurance

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**SERMON** 

**Hymn** All Things Bright and Beautiful See insert

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)

Thank you, extravagant God, for your blessings in our lives. We offer ourselves in grateful response, seeking to live with such compassion toward others that your blessings will flow through us to bless our community and our world. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn Praise to the Living God #47

## Benediction

As you depart this space, remember that the God who caused water to flow from a rock is the same God who walks with you. Go forth with the assurance that in the midst of a chaotic world something good can happen and something good will happen. **Amen.**