

St.Paul's United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Craig Hink

9:30 a.m.

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Let us welcome one another as we gather here this morning.

ALL: HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO COME TO WORSHIP SINGING PRAISES TO GOD'S NAME

Leader: Here we acknowledge all people of the earth are God's children.

ALL: LET US GREET ONE ANOTHER BY NAME IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

Leader: Open our hearts to renewed understandings.

**ALL: GOD WILL EQUIP US TO FACE OUR WORLD SO WE MAY BE
AMBASSADORS IN THE NAME OF JESUS**

***Opening Hymn**

Special Music by Jeff Christ

***Prayer of Confession (in Unison)**

God calls each of us not to believe the same but to have relationships of trust and understanding; by His spirit we then can live together in peace, and we can then reach out to serve each other and our GOD. WE have neglected this by not taking time to listen to the quiet guiding voice of the Spirit and then heeding those Words.

***Words of Assurance**

God hears our prayers; God also is aware that at times our fears and reluctance prevent us from following that spiritual guidance, yet God does not cease to love us. God's Loving guiding Spirit continues to walk with us and within us encouraging us, strengthening us, empowering us to walk in the way of Jesus.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory to be to 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, Amen.

Scripture Reading**Matthew 15: 10 – 20**

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind," And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Sermon**"Food for Thought"****Sermon Hymn****Special Music by Jeff Christ****Prayers of the People**

Pastoral Prayer Silent Prayer Lord's Prayer Cares Chorus

Offering our Gifts***Doxology**

Praise God from who all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Offering Prayer**

Thanks be to thee, O God, for all good gifts, and especially for thy inexpressible gift of the Lord Jesus. Help us, O Lord, to see wherein we have been blessed, and to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Closing Hymn*Special Music by Jeff Christ*****Benediction**