

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
September 17, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Rev. Robert F. Broeder

Organ Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader We come here to lay aside the fear that controls us,

People: We come here to lay aside the fear that controls us,

Leader: The disagreement that divides us,

People: The anger that consumes us,

Leader: The gossip that betrays us,

People: The malice that imprisons us.

Leader: We come here to be re-created in God's image

People: As joyful builders of God's realm.

***Hymn** **We Praise Three, O God** **#3**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Forgive us and set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are set free to love as God loves.

Amen.

***The 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, Amen*

Welcome and Announcements

Blessing of the Backpacks

Scripture Readings **Psalm 103:1 - 13** **Matthew 18:21 - 35**

Hymn **Our God, Our Help in Ages Past** **#9**

Sermon **Really I Need to Do This**

Hymn **O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee** **#186**

Silent Prayer - Pastoral Prayer - Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus

*I cast all my cares upon You. I lay all of my burdens down
at Your feet. And any time I don't know just what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon You.*

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead,
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

- Invitation
- Words of Institution
- Prayer of Consecration
- Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you for refreshing us at Christ's table. May our minds be renewed through our participation at your Holy Supper. Amen.

Offering our Gifts

- Invitation
- Offertory Music

***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**

God of abundance, **you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

***Hymn**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#234

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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The center cups of the communion tray is grape juice for those who prefer