

St Paul United Church of Christ

January 29, 2023

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Call to Worship

L: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

P: Those who do justice. Those who confront inequities and uplift the oppressed.

L: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

P: Those who love kindness. Those who love neighbor, friend and foe.

L: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

P: Those who walk humbly with you. Those who follow your lead and answer your call.

Just and Loving God, we enter into your sacred spaces, in sanctuaries and in homes, in public gatherings and private places. You bridge time and space to forge us as a beloved community. You, O Sovereign, make plain the way of life for us. Encourage us to join your journey, to love your children and creation, and to contribute to your kingdom on earth. **Amen.**

***Hymn**

Be thou my vision

#288

***Confession**

Holy Wisdom, you have expressed your hope for us and vision for life abundantly. Many times we settle for a temporary truce over real peace. We avoid confrontation and accountability that builds up and creates a more just world. We refuse to relentlessly pursue your will when discomfited by the cost of discipleship. We come to you in silent confession.

Forgive us, O God

***Words of Assurance**

Receive the good news that each day presents a new opportunity to follow the way of Jesus—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The grace of the Holy One meets us. God embraces and supports us in the turning and will be faithful to strengthen us on the path of righteousness.

Assembly: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Time with the Children

Scripture: Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Sermon

Hymn Let Streams of Living Justice –Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siXdK_nwh4g

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Cares Chorus Response

Offering of Our Gifts

Invitation A generous life counters the societal norms that depend on scarcity. Our Loving God creates in abundance so that all may live a full and flourishing life. When we give from our abundance, we proclaim our trust in God's provision and our love of neighbor.

Offertory

*** The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*** Offering Prayer:**

Just God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that, through these gifts, your kingdom comes and your will is done. Amen

*** Closing Hymn** God Made From One Blood # 427 The New Century Hymnal

Benediction

As you go in the world, hold the blessings of peace.
Be the good news to a world shrouded in brokenness, pain, and despair.
Show the world the kingdom that lives in you.
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

*** Postlude**