**St.Paul’s United Church of Christ**

**February 12, 2023**

**Rev. Diane Goulson**

**Prelude**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in Spirit and in Truth.

**Come, let us humbly worship our God in Spirit and in Truth.**

**Invocation** We gather in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**\*Hymn** “Praise to The Lord, the Almighty” # 25 HUCOC

**\*Confession**

Our God loves us with an eternal love, filled with grace and mercy. It is a love that is

stronger than any challenge we are facing. Let us pause to turn to our God, seeking his

forgiveness.

Silent confession.

**Gracious God,**

**Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given**

**ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your**

**compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and**

**things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our**

**Savior and Lord. Amen**

**\*Words of Assurance**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God, strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **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**

**Children’s Time**

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 5: 21 - 37 NRSVUE

**Concerning Anger**

**21** “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ **22** But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. **23** So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. **25** Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A+21+-+37&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-23260d)] with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

### **Concerning Adultery**

**27** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

### **Concerning Divorce**

**31** “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ **32** But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### **Concerning Oaths**

**33** “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ **34** But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, **35** or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. **36** And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. **37** Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

**Prayer**

**O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**Sermon**

**Hymn** “O Savior, Let Me Walk with You” # 503 TNCH

**Prayers**

**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**

**I cast all my cares upon you.**

**I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.**

**And anytime I don’t know just what to do,**

**I will cast all my cares upon You.**

**Offering our Gifts**

Invitation

Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ’s church.

Offertory Music

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Offering Prayer**

**Lord God, we give to you from all that you have given us. Help us to live generously in the bounty that you have shared with us. Give us eyes to see the needs of others and hearts that seek to fill those needs. You have blessed us to be a blessing to others. Help us to live into that call. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen**

**\*Hymn**  “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer” # 18 TNCH

**\*Benediction** The Lord bless you and keep you,

the Lord make his face shine and be gracious upon you,

the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. + **Amen**

**\*Postlude**