

St.Paul's United Church of Christ
February 5, 2023
Rev. Diane Goulson

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in God's commandments!

Come, let us gather together to hear God's Word.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

Come, let us gather together to shine light into the darkness.

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

Come let us gather together to be fed and filled at the Lord's table so that we may feed and fill those in need.

Come let us gather together to worship our Lord!

Invocation We gather in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

***Hymn**

"Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts"

589 TNCH

***Confession**

Holy One in three, you call us to take delight in your Word and we choose to dismiss it as powerless. You call us to bring light into the world and instead we hide in the darkness in fear. You call us to be generous and just in dealing with one another, and we instead choose to hoard what you have given us and to use our power to build inequality in the world. Forgive us, O merciful God as you hear the words of our hearts as we confess in silence before you and our neighbor.

Silent confession.

Our failings are many and your mercy is great.

Forgive us, O merciful God.

***Words of Assurance**

Our God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and generously made us alive together with Christ. By the Grace of our God you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God, strengthen you through the Holy Spirit to dwell on the Word, to be light in the world, and to be generous and just in our needy world. Christ lives in your hearts through faith.

Thanks be to God! Amen

***The Gloria Patri**

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Time

Scripture Reading Matthew 5: 13 - 20

Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon

Hymn

"You Are the Salt for the Earth, O People"

181 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.

Hymn

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

342 TNCH

The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.

We have been Led, Eternal One, by your light.

May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen

Offering our Gifts

Invitation

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**

God of abundance, you share with us your light, all that we have, and your justice. Send us into the world to bring the power of your Word, to fill the needy, and to bring a unity of love to a divided world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

***Hymn**

"This Little Light of Mine"

524 TNCH

***Benediction**

***Postlude**