

St Paul United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Pentecost Season
June 6, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Requests

Prelude (Recording begins)

Call to Worship (Psalm 138)

*I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and
your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.*

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

***They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is
high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.***

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you
stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.*

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

***Hymn**

“Let All Things Now Living”

#22 Blue Hymnal

***Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of
our days.***

***God’s banners are o’er us, God’s light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into
light.***

***God’s law he enforces; the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim him
divine.***

***We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving; to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!***

Opening Prayer

**God our Maker and Redeemer, you rule forever in our hearts. Today, we begin to listen for
your Word to us in the stories of ancient Israel about how the people of that day considered
how allegiance to earthly power might affect their faithfulness to you. As the story unfolds,
may the wisdom of the Scriptures speak to us about our own issues of faithfulness today.**

May the way of Jesus guide us in all that we do, and may our faltering steps to follow him be steadied by the assurance of your gracious love. Amen.

*Hymn

"Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult"

#345 Blue hymnal

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us – by thy mercies, Savior may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.*

Scripture Lesson: 1 Samuel 8:4-20

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only – you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people, who were asking him for a king. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you; he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and set a king over them." Samuel then said to the people of Israel, "Each of you return home."

Special Music

"Just As I Am"

Paula Weil

Sermon

Pastor Allen

In our Scripture story for today, we learn how the people freed by God from their slavery in Egypt begin to falter in their confidence in God's guidance and protection, and ask for a king who they think will protect them against the dangers of their world. Samuel the prophet warns them about the bargain they are about to make, and urges them to place their trust in the One who has brought them safely to this place.

Communion Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

#699 Blue hymnal

***Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.***

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Those worshipping with us at home may use whatever food and drink you have available for the Communion elements.)

Come, let us gather at the table of God, where the bread of life and the fruit of God's compassion are shared and all are welcome to celebrate as one. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

On the same night on which he was betrayed, our Lord took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it, saying, Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood that is poured out for you and for many for the remission of sin.

Eucharistic Prayer

Gracious Presence, Holy Love, as we enter into the fellowship of this sacred meal, we confess our need to open our hearts to you. We have been too concerned with earthly fears and wants, too little aware of the needs of those around us and too impatient to wait upon your spirit of reassuring love to enter in and transform our souls. Come, Spirit of the living Christ, and let us see you in this meal. May the elements of food and drink we share so nurture us that we may feel your presence and your compassion expressed in this communion that we share.

We ask your blessing on the offerings brought to your table today, and on the spirit of commitment that lives within all those who contribute to our common life. We ask your blessing upon the ministries carried out by this congregation in your name, and we pray that your work to magnify our efforts may bring surprising joy and reassurance to those who may be touched by you through what we seek to accomplish here.

For any who are in pain or need, in our fellowship, our community and in all the world, we offer prayers today – especially that they may be touched by your presence and enabled to see the hope that is before them.

For all who live in adverse circumstances, for all who are in bondage, for immigrants, for people seeking freedom, and for all who live in fear, we lift up our prayers and make our promise to you that we will commit ourselves to the works of justice and compassion, as witnesses to the way of Christ.

Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Now let us share the Communion meal:

This is the body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that is given for you. Take and eat. Do this in remembrance of him.

This is the new covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ our Savior that is shed for you for the remission of your sin.

May the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord be and abide with us now and forevermore. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“God Be with You”

#716 Blue hymnal

*God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again, 'neath his wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; if life's perils should confound you,
God will put his arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.*

Benediction

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Postlude