

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Daily Lectionary Readings *Psalm 42*
Exodus 19:16-25
Matthew 9:2-8

Today's Scripture Verse: *Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Stand up and walk"? (Matthew 9:4b-5)*

What it means: Jesus has just been accused of blasphemy. He has told a paralyzed man that his sins are forgiven. Should a human teacher say such a thing? Can anyone but God forgive sin? It is a question of authority, and authority is a matter of trust. The "son of man," as Jesus is called in this Gospel, is one who trusts in the judgment of God and relies upon the forgiveness of God. His authority rests upon his full comprehension of God's goodness. When someone asks you or me if we think God can forgive them for something they've done, we too can respond, "You are forgiven," because that is what we understand to be the very character of God.

Our time of prayer: In a world conflicting voices, where judgments are often made, God make of us a people of grace, who live by the power of your forgiveness.

