

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 5, 2023 – 9:30 am

Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

*We believe this space is sacred. Please silence your phones and prepare for worship.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

**MANY: We are the salt of the earth.**

One: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

**MANY: We are the light of the world.**

One: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

**MANY The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.**

One: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**MANY: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.**

**\*HYMN** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness #286

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

One: When we feel so negative about ourselves, and we do not hear the acceptance of those who care about us.

**ALL: Forgive us, O Lord.**

One: When our sense of isolation blocks out our awareness of your abiding love.

**ALL: Forgive us, O Lord.**

One: When we feel so guilty, we cannot hear your forgiveness and find new life.

**ALL: Forgive us, O Lord. Amen. The good news is that we are accepted and affirmed by God as we are.**

One: The good news is that we are not strangers to ourselves or to one another.

**ALL: We are God's children, members of one body. Our sins are forgiven. We have been brought into new life.**

PASSING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

**\*HYMN** Just As I Am #207

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isa 58: 1-9a, Ps 112:1-9, Matt 5:13-20

MEDITATION The Spirit of the Law

INVITATION TO OFFERING

**\*DOXOLOGY**

We give you but your own,  
What e're the gift may be;  
All that we have is your alone,

We give it gratefully.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** You call us to be your light in the darkness, your voice in the wilderness, your hope for the hopeless. You give us strength in our weakness, peace and gentleness, words and boldness, to proclaim more of you and of us, less. With grateful hearts we bring to you our time, talent and treasure. Bless them to be used to your glory. Amen.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (based on Matt 5:13-20)

**WORDS OF REMEMBERING** (Isaiah 58: 1-12)

We remember that Jesus quoted Isaiah throughout the gospels – for Christ came to lead followers who feed those who are hungry, sheltered those unhoused, clothed those naked and comfort those afflicted. Christ came to lead followers to destroy injustices, lift up those who are oppressed, break the yokes of those victimized and, at the same time, stop pointing fingers of blame. And we remember that Jesus sealed the covenant not in a fast of deprivation, but a feast of hope, sitting at a seder celebrating escape from oppression, and claiming that the new Way is bread and fruit and love.

**COMMUNION HYMN** Until All Are Fed insert

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** God, now that we are fed, we recognize how many there are who need a lighted lamp lifted so high it may take several hands to hold it, and who always need a taste of tomorrow and a sip of courage for it, For this we pray using the words Jesus taught his followers: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**HYMN** Community of Christ #314

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

\*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able

Congregational Response to each prayer request is: **Your prayer is our prayer. Your joy is our joy.**

**Communion** is open to all, including children with parent's approval. We serve wine in the outer rings and juice in the middle. We offer a gluten free wafer for those with gluten intolerance or need a gluten-free diet.

**Resources:**

Prayer of Dedication - written by John Birch, and posted on **Faith and**

**Worship.** [http://www.faithandworship.com/Lectionary\\_C/YearC\\_28th\\_in\\_Ordinary.html#ixzz2bWd9nWkx](http://www.faithandworship.com/Lectionary_C/YearC_28th_in_Ordinary.html#ixzz2bWd9nWkx)

Celebration of Holy Communion: [giftsinopenhands.wordpress](http://giftsinopenhands.wordpress)

**Reminders**

02/07 – Seniors  
02/09 – Bible Study 1 pm  
02/13 – Council at 6 pm  
02/16 – Women’s Guild at noon  
02/18 – Duck Pin Bowling 4 pm  
02/26 – Chili Dinner and Pie Sale 11 – 2

Please sign up to help at the Chili Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, February 26th. The sign up sheet can be found in the fellowship hall. We will also need a couple people to help with set-up from 1pm - 2pm on Saturday (Feb. 25). If you are able to help, please contact Connie Johnson at [ecfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:ecfamily5@gmail.com) or 262 313 7672.

Donations items that are needed to make the Chili should be to church by February 19th. The other items can be brought by 9:30 am on February 26th.

Pastor Bonnie and Jeff will be on vacation from February 13 to 20<sup>th</sup>. Rev. John Helt will lead worship on February 19<sup>th</sup>. If you experience an emergency, please contact Charmaine Duehring at 262-229-5862.

**Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits: Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits:** Marilyn Dieball, Ron Smith, Beulah Timm, Ken Snow, Richard Nell, Marvin Schlafer, Erik Johnson and James Leifer.

**Birthdays** Julia Kluever and Anna Kluever on Tuesday, February 7.

**Liturgist for this Sunday:** Jacquie Branchford  
**Liturgist for next Sunday:** Curt Hulterstrum  
**Greeters for this Sunday:** Cheryl Fischer and Jill Paddock  
**Greeters for next Sunday:** Bernie Chase and Cindy Cain

*Following service, you are invited to fellowship hall for coffee and conversation.*