**St.Paul’s United Church of Christ**

**Sunday, January 8, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Craig Hink**

Organ Prelude

Ringing of the Church Bell

**\*Call to Worship**

Wade into the waters of love; **Step into the rivers of blessing.**

Here, find the renewing streams of mercy. **Here, taste the wonder of God's goodness.**

Feel the waters of life; **Know the joy of baptism;**

See the springs of eternal life; **Sing of the triumph of God's blessing. Amen**

**\*Hymn of Praise** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #25

**\*Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)**

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of beginning again. Thank you for the reminder in the water we touch and taste every day, that you are the God of creation and re-creation. You are the God of all of life. You are the God of sustenance and renewal. Bless us this day. Wash us in your grace. Shower us with your love. Hold us accountable, and redeemable, and make new hearts within us that follow you. Amen.

**\*Silent Confession**

**\*Words of Assurance**

**\*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.

\***Sign of Peace and Words of Welcome**

*Please extend a word of welcome, warmth and friendship to those seated near you.*

**Scripture Reading Matthew 3: 13 - 17**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him saying, “I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Sermon** “A Fork in the Road”

**Hymn** I Sing the Praise of Love Unbounded #54

**Prayers of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer – Lord’s Prayer – Cares Chorus Response**

**Offering**

Invitation & Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Thank you, extravagant God, for your blessings in our lives. We offer ourselves in grateful response, seeking to live with such compassion toward others that your blessings will flow through us to bless our community and our world. Amen**.**

**\*Closing Hymn** Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound #233

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