

# St. Paul's United Church of Christ

## Prelude

### Ringing of the Bell

### Call to Worship

Are you ready for this journey?

**We truly are. We have decided to follow Jesus.**

*Hymn: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" See insert vs 1*

This is not going to be an easy journey. You may want to turn around and go home to safety and security.

**No. We're ready. The world is behind us; we are focused on the cross.**

*Hymn: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" See insert vs 2*

Many will begin the journey; but not all will continue. Are you ready?

**We are ready. We place our faith and trust in Jesus.**

*Hymn: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" See insert vs 3*

### Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Gracious Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow you. Amen

### Words of Assurance

The journey of discipleship is never easy; but you can be assured that you will not be on this journey alone. Place your trust in Jesus. AMEN.

### \*The Gloria Patri

### Welcome & Announcements

### Children's Sermon

**Scripture Readings Mark 8:31-37**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life." <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant.

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter. He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said:

If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself? <sup>37</sup> What could you give to get back your soul?

### Sermon

The Cross of Life

### Hymn

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

*see insert*

### Pastoral Prayer -Silent Prayer-The Lord's Prayer

### Cares Chorus

*I cast all my cares upon You, I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet, And any time I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon You.*

### Offering of our Gifts

Invitation

Doxology

### Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

Let our giving reflect our commitment to live our lives for you. Amen.

### Hymn

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

*see insert*

### \*Benediction

### Postlude



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Henderson, Minnesota  
February 28, 2021  
9:30am**