**St. Paul’s United Church of Christ**

**February 26, 2023**

**Rev. Robert F. Broeder**

**Organ Prelude**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: It is not enough to say we are people of God,

**P: If we do not stand with God in the places of pain.**

L: It is not enough to say we are people of God,

**P: If we do not risk traveling with God into places of danger.**

L: It is not enough to say we are people of God,

**P: If we do not act with God in the places of oppression.**

**ALL: We come together, to become people of God not in word alone, but in deed.**

***\**Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” #127**

**\*Prayer of Invocation (unison)**

**O divine lover of our souls, we come to this time of worship longing for relationship. As we come together as Your people, may we celebrate the mystery of Your triune nature. Creating God, renew us. Saving God, bridge the gaps of isolation and loneliness which separate us from one another and from You. Sustaining God, stir in our hearts like a mighty wind so that we might be born and born anew in You. Amen.**

**\*The 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, Amen*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Scripture**

**Psalm 32**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy all you upright in heart.

**Mathew 4: 1 – 11**

Then Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone,’ ” Jesus said to him, ”Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’ ” Then the devil left him and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Hymn “Jesus Savior, Pilot Me” #265**

**Sermon Be Gone you Devil**

**Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #129**

**Silent Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Cares Chorus**

*I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down*

*at your feet. And anytime I don’t know just what to do,*

*I will cast all my cares upon You.*

**Hymn “Fairest Lord Jesus” #140**

**Offering our Gifts**

Invitation

Offertory Music

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from who all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**\*Offering Prayer**

God of abundance**, you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

***\**Hymn “On God the Spirit We Rely” #149**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**