

**St. Paul United Church of Christ, Taylor, Michigan**  
**First Sunday in Lent /February 26, 2023**

Silent Prayer and Reflection

What tempts me?

Ringling of the Bell

Announcements

Welcome

Prelude John Joannette, Pianist

\*Call to Worship/Passing of the Peace Leader: Tracy Hoffman

One: Happy are we when our transgression is forgiven.

**All: Happy are we when God imputes to us no iniquity.**

One: Let us acknowledge our sin to God, and not hide it.

**All: Let us confess our transgressions to our God who forgives.**

One: God, you are a hiding place for us; you preserve us from trouble.

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**\*Hymn No. 595 “Be Thou My Vision**

\*Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

**All: O God who is faithful in all circumstances:**

**Grant us the grace to follow Jesus’ example**

**and resist temptation in all forms. Amen.**

Anthem “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us/ He Leadeth Me,” (William Bradbury) John Joannette, piano solo

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Lector: Tracy Hoffman

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Message: Priorities, Prestige, Property

**\*Hymn No. 180 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

Presentation 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.**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Lord’s Prayer (debts, debtors)

Receiving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Receiving

**\*Hymn No. 612 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

**WELCOME TO ALL SHARING TODAY’S MORNING SERVICE IN PERSON AND FACEBOOK LIVESTREAMING** which can be viewed on Facebook at other times as well. An order of service is downloadable from our church website (stpaulucctaylor.org) with a video recording of our worship together also posted by Sunday afternoon.

**COMMUNION IS OFFERED THIS MORNING.** Elders are distributing sealed communion “kits” in the narthex for all baptized adults worshipping in the sanctuary. Members and friends sharing in our livestreamed service at home are encouraged to make use of bread and juice from their kitchens, which will be consecrated with prayer as communion begins. At St. Paul we practice an “open” communion: you do not need to be a formal member of the congregation to participate. But we ask all receiving communion to commit themselves to walk more closely with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS GATHERING UPSTAIRS** this morning. *“Mercy Me”* is the morning’s Sunday School message. Through games, stories, music and fellowship the children will learn and discover what mercy means and understand the importance of showing it in their young lives.

**COFFEE HOUR** this morning following our morning worship service.  
**WEARING OUR NAME TAGS WILL HELP** our new minister and visitors put a name to our faces. If you need to update or get a new tag, please contact the church office.

**FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN:** Linda Tank, Sandi Rose, Beverly Sitz, Debbie Case, Dan Case, Lorelee Wilson, Barbara Siemers, Dianne Sturgeon, Murl Nieman, Kim Beyar, Fred Block, Sally Sigman, Rev. Norm Kirsch, Michelle Mellin, John Caufield, Shelly Wilson, Jerry Rossi, Sheila Klimek, Wayne Jones, Vicki Simon, Shirley Robinson, Kyle Hard, Eleanor Rossi, Jeff Natzke, Neil MacEachern, Kevin Siemers, Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Jeff MacZink, Sue Spears, Bert Thompson, Margo Charette, Gabriel Siadak, Loretta Kurtzel, Hailey Smith, Brenda Stockwell, Donna Greca, Joyce LeBlanc, Sue Milatz, Lynn Case, Susan Barnard, Judy Kirsch, Debi Petri. **Happy Birthday: Murl Nieman! Congratulations to Larry and Loretta Kurtzel on 59 years of marriage.**

**TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS.** It is reported that over 47,000 people have fallen victim to the first devastating earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria two weeks ago. Several days ago, the area experienced a second earthquake. Donations are still being welcomed for relief efforts. To make a donation, you can place it in the offering basket in the Narthex. Checks should be made out to St. Paul UCC. PLEASE mark it Turkey/ Syria earthquake relief. One check will then be sent to the UCC for relief efforts. Contact Pastor Schalm with any questions.

**A Lenten Bible & Book study on the book, “You Were Made for This Moment, Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow,”** by Max Lucado will be offered on Monday evenings beginning on March 6th and concluding on April 3rd. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Schalm by February 27th. Books will be ordered at that time.

**ROCK HARD IN FAITH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ‘ST. PATTY’S PIZZA AND DANCE PARTY’ ARC OUTREACH.** The youth will be hosting a St. Patty’s pizza party and dance for members of the ARC/ Special Olympics downriver association on Saturday, March 11. Anyone interested in making cupcakes or cookies for the event should contact Pastor Schalm.

**PALM PASSION SUNDAY READERS NEEDED** On Palm Sunday (Palm/Passion Sunday) we will be reading the entire story of Jesus’ passion which is almost two chapters long. We will do this in a readers’ theater style with various folks reading the lines of each character. We will need 15 volunteers to read. Most of the parts are very short and we will be reading so you don’t need to memorize the lines. Palm Sunday is April 2 and we will have a practice read through after worship on March 26. If you are willing to volunteer to read, please see Pastor Reed. Thank you.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP	
Calendar Week February 26 – March 5	
Sunday	Worship Service 10:00 a.m. – Rev. George Reed Communion/ Sunday School 10:00 a.m./ Coffee hour 11:00 a.m.
Monday	Meditation Mondays Young Adult Bible Study – Off Site
Tuesday	Bible Study 10:30 a.m./
Wednesday	Exercise 10:30 a.m./ Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	Worship 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniels