

January 1, 2023
The Second Sunday after Christmas

Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome Statement *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

Prelude to Silence

Silence *...a time to breathe...*

*** Call to Worship** Adapted from
Psalm 20

Leader: The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May God send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion.

People: **May God grant you your heart's desire,
and fulfill all your plans.**

Leader: Now I know that the Lord will help us;
God will answer us from holy heaven
with mighty victories by God's right hand.

People: **Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,
but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God...
we shall rise and stand upright.**

Leader: In hope, let us come and worship.

• **Hymn** *Now Bless the God of Israel* (NCH 110)

• **Morning Prayer**

Merciful and Creating God, before you our limits are clear. We confess our ill spoken words, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises. Forgive us, Holy One, for squandering your gifts, for our grasping selfishness, for neglected opportunities to do good. Come into our hearts and minds and make us new again we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** Assurance:** adapted from Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and we know that in all things God works for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. And we are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the gospel of God's grace by which we are made whole and for which we all say:

Thanks be to God!

*** Sung Response - *Gloria Patri***

Call to Offering *The Work of Christmas* Howard Thurman

Offertory

• **Sung Response - *Doxology***

Kid's Time

Invitation to the Table *At This Table*

If you are hungry, or even just curious, come and eat.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

1st Scripture Reading **Psalm 100**

2nd Scripture Reading **Matthew 2: 13-23**

Sermon

• **Closing Hymn** *In the Bulb There is a Flower* (NCH 433)

• **Benediction** *Grace...Love...Fellowship...Always*

Postlude

• ***Please stand if you are able***

Before everything, after everything, in everything

Be Kind!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Sherri Roberts

Radio Sponsor: Brad & Lorna Brookins in gratitude for the kindness and generosity of this congregation

Volunteers are needed. Our annual shift assisting with the Food Pantry distribution will be on **January 21 from 9-11 a.m.** We could use as many as 10 volunteers. There is a sign up sheet on a table in the entry. Contact Peggy Ganzer with any questions

The adult Bible Study Meets this morning following the worship service. We are starting a comparative study of the gospels this Sunday, beginning with the stories of Jesus' birth given in Matthew and Luke. Please bring your questions and join in.

Address Changes—If your mailing or email address changes please send the new address to the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)

Reflecting the friendship of God toward all Creation, First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome all persons—of any sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, age, family structure, faith background, ability or economic circumstance. We recognize every person as a child of God, welcome all to worship and serve with us and consider all who come to be a necessary part of this fellowship with all its privileges and responsibilities.

Promise from a Sabbath Garden

My garden sabbaths deep in grace,

Blanketed over, warmed from below.
Peeking above the covers, ragged remnants
Feed passers by who brave the cold.
“I am here,” she insists.
“Though hard to see”.
Or believe.

My garden sabbaths deep in grace,
Her winter womb a quiet hum.
I hear the tune—a soothing
Move to be born anew.
“Rest assured,” she whispers.
“Much is promised.
Much is astir.”

Brad Brookins
February, 2021

Psalm 100

A Psalm of thanksgiving.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;

come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'