

Be Kind

We're all human

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power

and the glory forever.

Amen



First United Church of Christ

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First United Church of Christ

Sauk City



An Open and Affirming Congregation



January 7, 2024

1st Sunday after epiphany

Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome Statement *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

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

* **Call to Worship** *(adapted from Psalm 69)*

Leader: Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

People: I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God...

Leader: I am lowly and in pain; let your salvation, O God, protect me.

People: I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving...For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise his own that are in bonds.

All: Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

* **1st Hymn** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (NCH #12)

* **Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, we come from every direction. Some days, maybe today, "weak and wounded, tired and sore." Some days, maybe today, with grateful hearts overflowing. Most days burdened by weakness, by our unyielding tendency to mess things up. Forgive us. Hold us close. Direct us in your path. Strengthen us for the road that lies still ahead. For your presence and for this gift we give thanks. Amen.

* **Assurance:**

There is no wrong you have done for which you have not already and long ago been forgiven This is the gospel of God's grace by which we are redeemed and made whole and for which we all say:

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response** *Breathe on me Breath of God...* (On screen)

Announcements

Offering Invitation

Matthew 6:38

"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Offertory

• **Sung Response** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Generosity and grace, abundance and blessing, love without borders, beauty beyond description, kindness under everything. For all that is and was and ever will be we give you thanks. Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading

I John 4:7-8

2nd Hymn

Just As I Am

(NCH #207)

2nd Scripture Reading

Psalms 103: 1-14

Sermon

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* **Closing Hymn** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* (NCH #546)

* **Benediction**

Kimberly Holman

May our grasping and yearning dissolve into stillness. May our fretting and thinking dissolve into silence. May our worries and fears dissolve into love. And may our souls ever rest in the mercy of Divine grace. Amen. Go in peace.

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Jamie Witter

Radio Sponsor: Dianna Woerpel, in memory of Duane Woerpel's birthday on 12/29 and their wedding anniversary on 1/6

First UCC Welcome Statement:

"Come to me," Jesus said, "all who are weary..." (Matthew 11:28)

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. Whoever you are, whatever your story, however you identify, whomever you love, we would value your friendship and welcome you into our community. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome at First United Church of Christ. So come to worship and to be nourished by the bread and wine at the Jesus' table. Stay to serve Sauk City and beyond. We are looking forward to getting acquainted.

We share a Communion meal every Sunday here at First UCC and absolutely everyone is invited. The bread is made fresh, and the cup contains grape juice. So if you are a little bit hungry please come to the table.

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast call the church office at 608.643.8387 to check on available dates. Cost is now \$90.00/week. You have the option of sharing a Sunday. Your support of this ministry is much appreciated.

Address Changes – If your phone number, mailing, or emailing address changes please send the new address to the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

From Members in Ministry – if you know someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call, or would like to receive communion in their home, please let Debbie Tschudy know, her contact is 608.963.4873.

Questions? Concerns? Perplexed? Thirsty for some good coffee? Give a call and we'll find a table at a coffee shop where we can talk for a while. All perplexities allowed. 608.669.2926 (Pastor Brad).

1st Scripture Reading:

I John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

2nd Scripture Reading:

Psalms 103: 1-14

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.