

**January 8, 2023
Epiphany Sunday**

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 Psalms 43 &
43

(Leader) As the deer pants for streams of water,
so we long for you, O God.

(People) **We thirst for you, the living God.**

When can we come and stand in your presence?

(Leader) Through each day,
the Lord pours his unfailing love upon us,

(People) **Through each night**

we sing his songs,

praying to the God who gives us life.

(Leader) Send out your light and your truth, O God.

Let them guide us to Your holy mountain,
to the place where you live.

(People) **Then we will go to the altar of God,**

to God—the source of all our joy.

Come now and worship.

• **Hymn** *God Leading Me* (On Screen)

• **Morning Prayer**

Holy God, we know that you created us in to live in your presence and enjoy your world; to serve your creation and your children. And we know when we do not do your will. With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive. With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty. With feet of clay, we cannot dance in joy or run to aid. Help us. Change us. Open our hands and eyes and move our feet toward

grace we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Adapted from Beth Neel)

* **Assurance:**

The One who made you—who knows your face and remembers your name, has redeemed you and forgiven you and will *always* love you beyond all you can hope or imagine. This is the good news for today calling us to say out loud:

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response** (Words will be on the screen)

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

• **Sung Response** (Words will be on the screen)

Choir Anthem *Good News, Everybody Listen!* William Barrett

Kid's Time

Invitation to the Table

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

1st Scripture Reading **Matthew 2:1-6**

2nd Scripture Reading **Matthew 2:7-12**

Sermon *Home by Another Way*

• **Closing Hymn** *Be Now My Vision* (NCH# 451)

• **Benediction**

Postlude

• *Please stand if you are able*

Be Kind!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important! The Consistory has called for a formal Congregational Meeting to be held following the worship service on January 15. We will be discussing some financial issues that have arisen and begin a longer conversation on the future of First UCC. Please read the front page of this month's Scoop for more information and plan on attending and participating at the meeting.

If you can't be at the meeting in person but can join online, here's the digital link you will need to participate:

Special Meeting First UCC

Sunday, January 15 · 10:00 – 11:00am

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/awi-qzsr-zes>

Liturgist: Peggy Ganser

Radio Sponsor: If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast call the church office at 608-643-8387 to check on available dates. Thanks.

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 Ganser with any questions

The adult Bible Study Meets this morning following the worship service. We are continuing our comparative study of the gospels, this Sunday reading the stories of Jesus' baptism.

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

Church Offering Update:

Monthly Offering Status:

Monthly Budget: \$ 16,667

December offering: \$ 33,771

Net: \$17,104

Totals for the Year:

Offering budget thru Dec.: \$ 200,000

Offering collected thru Dec.: \$

Expenses thru Nov: \$

Net: \$ ()

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.

“I don't preach a social gospel; I preach the Gospel, period. The gospel... is concerned for the whole person. When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, "Now is that political or social?" He said 'I feed you.'...the good news to a hungry person is bread.”

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Matthew 2.1-6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When

King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Mathew 2:7-12

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went home by another way.