

January 21, 2024

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome Statement *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

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

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

* **Call to Worship** **Arranged from Psalm 62**

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God.

People: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Leader: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

All: Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God our refuge.

* **1st Hymn** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (NCH #23)

• **Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, hold us close when the darkness threatens to overtake us and we are in danger of losing our way. When we forget, as we so often do, who we are and Whose we are; when we harm those we love or, should love; when we fail to stand with those pushed to the margins, forgive us. Set us on a gracious path, to become a people who love the world *as you do*; who love our neighbors *because you do*; who live this way in Jesus name. Amen.

* **The Promise:** *Anyone who is in Christ has become a New Creation altogether. The old is finished and gone. Everything has become new. This is the gospel by which we are forgiven and made whole, and for which we all say –*

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response**

*Breathe on me breath of God; fill me with life anew
That I may love what you do love, and do what you would do.*

Invitation to the Table *Come and Taste* (On Screen)

Without exception, everyone is welcome at this table. So if you're hungry, or even just curious, please come and taste.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading **Mark 1:14,15**

"...and the kingdom of God has come near..."

2nd Scripture Reading **Mark 1:16-20**

"...and immediately they left their nets and followed him..."

Sermon

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

• **Sung Response**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow...

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, we bring what we have and who we are and offer it all in love for the world you have created and the people you have redeemed. In great gratitude we give our thanks. Amen.

* **Closing Hymn** *The Summons* (On Screen)

* **Benediction** *Grace*

Love

Fellowship

Now

Always

• **Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tammy Young

Radio Sponsor:

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Love God with all your heart. Love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus

First United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We strive to foster loving and caring relationships in our church and community, and so we welcome and value all people—without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, or faith background. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome here. Anyone who covenants with us to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly” in the way of Jesus is invited to share in every aspect of our life together.

The Sunday School needs donations of cake mixes, frosting, birthday plates, napkins, balloons, and birthday candles during the month of January. The students will be putting together Birthday Bags for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. Donations can be placed on the table in the church entrance.

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 at \$90.00/week. Your support of this important ministry is much appreciated.

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.

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

From Members in Ministry—if you know someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call, or who would like to receive Communion in their home, please let Debbie Tschudy know. Call her at: (608) 963-4873.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for November: *Food items:* Granola Bars. *Supplies:* Markers, folders and glue sticks. Please drop your donations off in the red tote outside the educational doors during office hours (Monday—Friday, 8am—Noon) or inside during Sunday worship. Thanks for your help.

1st Scripture Reading:

Mark 1:14,15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

2nd Scripture Reading:

Mark 1:16-20

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.