

**January 22, 2023**  
**The Third 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 24

*Leader:* The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

***People:* the world, and those who live in it;**

*Leader:* for God has founded it on the seas,

***People:* and established it on the rivers.**

*Leader:* Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in God's holy place?

***All:* Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,**

**who do not lift up their souls to what is false,**

**and do not swear deceitfully.**

**They will receive blessing from the Lord,**

**and vindication from the God of their salvation.**

**Such is the company of those who seek God,**

**who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

• **Hymn** *My Life Flows On In Endless Song* (NCH# 476)

• **Morning Prayer**

Be with us in our wilderness times, Loving God. Teach us to trust you on those days when we don't know where we are; when we are unsure of where we are going. Remind us often that the world and all who live on it—all of us, are yours by your grace and by your choice. And so, help us to rest in this assurance; to live together in kindness and love enveloped, as we are at every moment, in your kindness and love. Amen.

**\* Assurance:** adapted I Corinthians 5:17

“Anyone who is in Christ is a New Creation. The old is finished and gone; everything had been made new.” This is the gospel of God's grace in which we are redeemed, by which we are made whole and for which we all say:

***Thanks be to God!***

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

**Call to Offering** *Redemption*

**Offertory**

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

**Kid's Time**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading** **Matthew 4:1-4**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading** **Matthew 4:5-11**

**Sermon** ...*into the wilderness...*

**Invitation** *Come and Taste*

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

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

• **Closing Hymn** *I've Got Peace Like a River* (NCH#478)

• **Benediction** *The Lord will keep you from all evil...* *Psalm 127*

**Postlude**

• ***Please stand if you are able***

# *Be Kind!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Search Committee survey forms** and a basket to receive completed surveys are on a table in the hallway outside the sanctuary . If you haven't already, please pick up a survey form and complete in as quickly as you can. The committee is counting on your help.

### **Liturgists: Rose Kleinert & Emily Fuchs**

**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.

**Last Sunday we welcomed** Mike and Audrey Gray and their children, and Zach and Lacey Klessig and their children and Tamara Straub into our church family. If you didn't get a chance to greet them last Sunday make sure to welcome them today. And then, while you're at it, welcome anyone else you don't know or maybe haven't seen in church for a while.

**Mark your calendar** for next Sunday, January 29 when we will have the Rev. Rachel Bauman in the First Church pulpit. Rachel is the new Associate Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. She will also stay around for an after church conversation on the challenges churches are facing in this changing, post-Covid world.

**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.

**Year end giving statements** are in the mail and should be in your mailbox soon. Let us know if yours doesn't arrive or if you have any questions.

**Our Offering Envelops** vendor has promised delivery any day now (but some promises are apparently harder to keep:-) We will get them to you as soon as they arrive.

### **Church Offering Update:**

Monthly Offering Status:	
Monthly Budget:	\$ 16,667
December offering:	<u>\$ 33,771</u>
Net:	\$17,104
Totals for the Year:	
Offering budget thru Dec.:	\$ 200,000
Offering collected thru Dec.:	\$ 181,292
Expenses thru Nov:	<u>\$ 199,395</u>
Net:	\$ (18,103)

### **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.

#### Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' '

#### Matthew 4:5-11

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

#### Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' '

#### Matthew 4:5-11

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## Redemption

I cannot redeem the days gone by  
nor live, before their time,  
those yet to come.

I cannot redeem the days gone by,  
they must be gone.

And those to come glimpsed  
as through a glass darkly,  
stained with hope.

I cannot redeem the days gone by  
nor live those yet to come  
before their time.

There is this day,  
this hour,  
its coming and going quickened.  
This breath,  
this moment.

I cannot redeem the days gone by,  
but only let them be—  
forgiven. The days to come  
come, as they will,  
without my prattling on.

May hope plant me here.  
Pray, let me be with this breath.

*The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
The Lord will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth  
and forevermore.*

Psalm 121:7–8