

January 29, 2023
The Fourth 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 27

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?...

People: For God will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

God will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

**All: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

Wait for the Lord;

**be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

Leader: Come now and worship

• **Hymn** *Great is Your Faithfulness* (NCH #423)

• **Morning Prayer**

We are grateful, Loving God, for the generous grace that infuses our lives and enlightens our world. And we are bold to ask for this grace to run deeper and this light to shine brighter—because there is so much uncertainty in our lives and there is so much darkness in our world. So many innocents have been lost to anger and hatred, privilege and pride. So much of our planet home has been lost—desecrated by greed and consumption. We confess that we are complicit; we own the darkness of our own souls. Yet we remain thankful—for your light *does* shine and your grace *does* flow and we *need*

not be afraid. The Creation will, at last, be ruled by grace, by mercy, by kindness. And we are grateful. Amen.

* **Assurance:** “*As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love towards those who fear God; as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for us.*” This is the Good News for us for this day. And for this gift we all say—

Thanks be to God!

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

Call to Offering

Offertory

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

Kid’s Time

1st Scripture Reading **Psalm 138**

2nd Scripture Reading **Luke 5: 1-11**

Sermon *Out in Deep Water (and not afraid)*

Invitation *Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer

• **Closing Hymn** *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* (NCH# 173)

• **Benediction**

Postlude

• *Please stand if you are able*

Be Kind!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Scott and Christy Kinnamon

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.

Today we welcome the Rev. Rachel Bauman in the First Church pulpit. Rachel is the new Associate Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, where one of her responsibilities is to assist churches involved in their search for a new settled pastor. After the worship service we will gather in the fireside room for a conversation on the challenges churches are facing in this changing, post-Covid world—and for any other questions you would like to ask her.

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.

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

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Luke 5: 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret,
and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,
he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had
gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of
the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a
little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the
crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to
Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a
catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long
but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the
nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that
their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their
partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came
and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon
Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from
me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with
him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so
also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners
with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from
now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought
their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.