

March 3, 2024

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

### Greeting and Announcements

**Welcome Statement** *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

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

### Prelude and Bringing in the Light

**Call to Worship** *(Adapted from John 15)*

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus:

**People:** “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

L: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

**P:** “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

L: “You are my friends... You did not choose me but I chose you.”

**P:** “I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

\* **1<sup>st</sup> Hymn** *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing* (NCH #459)

#### • **Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, we confess: we often are not the people we should be. We are not the church you called us to be. We will never save the world. We will never revive this congregation. This is the truth we confess. But we also confess, Holy God, your love for us and for our world—that in your goodness you forgive our failure; and in your kindness you cover our deficiency. And so we trust that your grace has saved us and your Spirit will revive us. For all of this we are grateful. Amen.

#### **Promise**

*There is no wrong you can confess for which you have not already and long ago been forgiven. This is the gospel for you today – the good news by which we are made whole and for which we 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** *All Our Days*

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

**Kid’s Time** *The Invisible String*

**Choir Anthem**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading** **Mark 12:28-31**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading** **John 15:12**

**Sermon**

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

**Offering**                    *"In my Father's house there is a lot of room..."*                    John 14:1-3

- **Sung Response**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

- **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Open our hearts, Loving God, to receive all you have to give us; and then open our hands to give it all away. Shape us into a generous people. Teach us to live *by* your grace and *for* those you love we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

\* **Closing Hymn**                    *If You but Trust...*                    (NCH #410)

\* **Benediction**                    *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness..."*                    (MLK Jr.)

- **Postlude**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgists:** Rose Kleinert

**Radio Sponsors:** Sharal Steuber, honoring our dedicated church custodian, Chris Garcia.

### **First UCC Welcome Statement:**

**Welcome Statement**                    *(to be printed on the bulletin insert)*

*"...This is my commandment—that you love one another as I have loved you..."*                    John 15:12

First United Church of Christ in Sauk City is an Open and Affirming Congregation. Whoever you are, whatever brought you here, however you identify, whoever you love, whatever your circumstances, you are welcome here. We believe that everyone is precious in God's eyes. We believe in second chances. We believe we all need each other. And we believe, with all our hearts, that God is with us and God is Love and Love always wins. And so we welcome friends, neighbors and strangers, the settled, the seeking and the curious—we welcome *you*.

(Adapted from McFarland UCC)

**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. Our next available dates are April 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**The Sunday School is asking for your help.** They are collecting monetary donations for Mabel's Building Mission. This organization was founded for the purpose of building homes for the poor in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Please see the March edition of the Scoop for details, or check out the table in the church entryway.

**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.

**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 March:** *Food items:* Ritz-type crackers. *Supplies:* Soap and women's and men's deodorant. 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.

**And since you gotta eat anyway,** join us for our second Lenten soup and bread supper on Wednesday evening, February 28, at 5:30 in the Fireside Room. The “Christian Weirdness” topic for that evening will be “Communion—What is it? Why do we do it? What might it mean?”

### **Mark 12:28-31**

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’

### **John 15:12**

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.