

March 10, 2024

4TH 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 by Thom Shuman

Leader: With friends and strangers,
with family and neighbors, we gather:

**People: Come among us, Healing God,
with that love which never ends.**

L: With faith reaching out to touch,
with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

**P: Come among us, Friend of the broken,
with your compassion which makes us whole.**

L: With word and wonder,
with silence and song, we wait:

**All: Come among us, Dryer of our tears,
to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

* 1st Hymn *Sing a New World into Being* (On Screen)

• Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, we are a people created by your love, formed by the words of Jesus and breathed into life by your Spirit. In your grace, we are whole. But sometimes we wander from wholeness; sometimes we seek light in darkness. May your ever present Spirit shake us when we need shaking, hold us together when we are coming apart and shape us more each day into the people you want us to be we pray. Amen.

Promise

Here is the gospel—the good news: God loves this world; God has redeemed this world; God is re-making this world. In this we are being made whole, and for this 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

**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 12:41-44**

2nd Scripture Reading **Mark 12:41-44 (The Message)**

Sermon *The Center*

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Offering *"Like a tree planted by water..." Jeremiah 7:7-9*

• Sung Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow...

• Gratitude Prayer (Unison)

Holy God, as the light grows brighter and the days grow longer grant us a heart that grows more open to your grace and more generous to our neighbors, we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

* **Closing Hymn** *Just As I Am* (NCH #207)

* Benediction

May God give you eyes to see in the darkness, ears to hear in the silence and a voice to speak courage in a time of fear. May these eyes see God's love in every neighbor's face, these ears hear God's love in every child's laugh, and this voice speak God's peace to all who are afraid. Amen.

• Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tammy Young

Radio Sponsors: Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, in honor of Sharal Steuber's birthday on March 13; Sharon, Kelsey and Owen Diehl in memory of Greg's birthday.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

"Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you..." Romans 15:7

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. We have witnessed the inclusive love of God in Jesus and we seek to be an expression of that love. So we welcome everyone into our covenant to "do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly" in the way of Jesus—whoever you are, whatever brought you here, however you identify, whoever you love, whatever your circumstances. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome here at First United Church of Christ.

The Communion Table is set with home made bread on the plate and grape juice in the cup. We welcome absolutely everyone to share in this meal. Whoever you are, whatever brought you here this morning, if you are even a little bit hungry, come and taste.

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 21st and 28th.

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.

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 "Baptism—The when, the where, and the why of this strange act".

Lois Price will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on March 18. Let's shower her with Birthday Wishes. Send your cards to:

Lois Price
1115 Franklin St
Sauk City, WI 533583

If you would like to remember someone this way on their birthday contact the church office in advance of the date and we will help you do it. Office phone: 608-643-8387 Email: office@ucc-saukcity.org.

1st Scripture Reading

Mark 12:28-31

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

2nd Scripture Reading

Mark 12:41-44 The Message

Sitting across from the offering box, he was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, "The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all."