

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen*

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*First United Church of Christ is an
Open and Affirming Congregation*

Blessed!!

!!Crucify!!

...it is finished...

“The story of the cross is first of all a story about God. And what this story tells us about God is *not* that God thinks us so wretched that we deserve death and hell. The story tells us that God believes we, and the whole creation, are so good, so beautiful, so precious, so full of potential that our redemption is worth dying for.”

Douglas John Hall

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City
Palm/Passion Sunday

March 24, 2024

Greetings and Announcements

Silence

Prelude and bringing in the light

Offering: **Christ Has No Body** Theresa of Avila
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours...

Offertory

* **Response**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

* **Prayer:** Open our hearts to receive your presence.
Open our lips to sing Hosannas! Open our hands to
share your grace. Use our gifts and our lives to benefit
the world and the people you love we pray, in Jesus
name. Amen.

"...the one who comes in the name of the Lord..."
John 12: 12-15

* **Song:** #216 *All Glory Laud and Honor*
The children bring in the palms. Wave them high!

The first last supper
Matthew 26. 17-22

Choir Anthem *In Remembrance of Me*
"...this is my body..."
Matthew 26:26-28

Come, eat and drink

On the Mount of Olives
Matthew 26. 30-39

Song: #223 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

* **Prayer of Confession**

We know, in our own hearts, loving God that we, too, would
have slept through Jesus' time of prayer and run away in his
time of trial. We cannot pretend to be more faithful than Peter
or more constant than John; we know too well who we are.
We see ourselves in the story and we are left clinging to your
grace, relying on your mercy. Forgive us, we pray, in the
name of the one who loves us anyway, Jesus Christ. Amen

* **Assurance of Forgiveness** (from Psalm 130)

Our hope is in you, O LORD! For with you there is steadfast
love, and great power to save. It is the LORD God who will
save us from all our wrongdoing.

Thanks be to God

Convicted
Matthew 27 (selections)

Song: #222 (vs.1-3) *My Song Is Love Unknown*

"...into your hands..."
Luke 23. 44-46

Clearing the Sanctuary

Song: *Were You There* Choir Trio

Sermon ...*just kidding*...

* **Song:** #226 *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

Benediction A Franciscan Blessing
May God bless us with discomfort...

Amazing Grace Denny Kahn

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

Our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will be on March 28 at 6:00 p.m. Our **Good Friday** service will be on March 29 at 6:00 p.m. Both services will be in the sanctuary.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for March: Food items: Ritz type crackers. Personal items: men's and women'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.

Easter flowers... we are looking for donations of potted flowering plants for our Easter Garden—lilies, tulips and anything Springy. Donations can be dropped off at the Education Building on Friday, March 29th or Saturday, March 30th from 9:00 – 12:00. Please specify on the signup sheet on the table in the hallway if you would like your plant returned.

We will not be having Sunday School or Confirmation classes next Sunday, March 31. Enjoy being with your families! Happy Easter!

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 June 2, 23 & 30, and July 7.

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 Progresso, Mexico. Please see the March edition of the Scoop for details, or check out the table in the church entryway.

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)

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—whoever you are, wherever you come from, however you identify, whomever you love. All of who you are is welcome here and all of us are enriched by your presence.



First United Church of Christ

Schedule for the Season of Lent

Maundy Thursday - March 28, 6:00 pm

Good Friday - March 29, 6:00 pm

John 12.12-15 (Emily)

The next day the great crowd that had come to the (Passover) festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!'

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!'

Matthew 26. 17-22 (Rose)

17 On the day of the feast, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' ¹⁸He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples." ' ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?'

Matthew 26. 30-39 (Rose)

30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus said to them, ‘You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

“I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”

³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.’ ³³Peter said to him, ‘Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.’ ³⁴Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ ³⁵Peter said to him, ‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’ And so said all the disciples.

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit

here while I go over there and pray.’ ³⁷He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.’ ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’

Selections from Matthew 27 (Rose)

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.

²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor...

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted... ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus

Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' ... And they said, 'Barabbas.'

²²Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' ²³Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' ...

²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Matthew 26:26-28 (Brad)

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 23:44-46 (Brad)

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do
good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the
world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

“A Franciscan Blessing”

MAY GOD BLESS YOU with discomfort,
at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships
so that you may live
deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for
justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,
to shed for those who suffer pain,
rejection, hunger, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand
to comfort them and
to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you
with enough foolishness
to believe that you can
make a difference in the world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness
to all our children and the poor.

Amen