

March 26, 2023
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Greeting

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Into Silence *Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me...*

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

- **Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 63)

Leader: O God, our God; earnestly we seek you;
our souls thirst for you;
our flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: **So we have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
our lips will praise you.**

All: **So we will bless you as long as we live;
in your name we will lift up our hands.)**

- **Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other* (NCH #388)

- **Morning Prayer**

Holy God, you call us to a high standard—to love you with our whole heart, mind and strength. It is hard for us to love what we cannot see, hear or touch. By your grace, grant us the trust that gives birth to love. You call us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. It is hard to love those we do not know and those we do fear. By your grace make *your* love flow through us to the world around us. Day by day lead us in the way of Jesus we pray, 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)

Announcements

Invitation to Offering *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

Offertory

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

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.

Kids Time

1st Scripture Reading **Luke 15:11-19**

2nd Scripture Reading **C. S. King Quote**

Sermon **The Prodigal Congregation**

The Table of Our Lord

Invitation

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer

- **Closing Hymn** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (NCH #593)

- **Benediction**

Postlude

- **Please stand if you are able**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tammy Young

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 final Lenten Soup Supper will be this Wednesday. Soup and bread at 5:30 followed by our reading of John's version of the night of Jesus' betrayal and a deeper dive into the meaning of Holy Week. Our **Maundy Thursday service** will be on April 6 at 6:00 pm and our **Good Friday service** will be on April 7 at 1:30 pm. Both services will be in the sanctuary. We will need several readers for each of these services. If you'd like to help out, please call Tammie Huerth and she will add you to the list of participants. Thanks,

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for March: Food items: Individual ritz cracker type packages or similar
Personal items: body wash, bar soap, men's and women's deodorant
Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by everyone. 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.

Monthly Church Offering Update:

Monthly Budget:	\$ 15,262
February offering:	\$ <u>13,865</u>
Net:	\$ (1,397)

Totals for the Year:	
Offering budget thru Feb:	\$ 30,525
Offering collected thru Feb:	\$ 27,487
Expenses thru Feb:	\$ <u>31,566</u>
Net:	\$ (4,079)

Today we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. OGHS is part of the ongoing effort within the United Church of Christ to provide immediate aid and long term support to people experiencing hunger, disaster or crisis around the world.

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 or 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. “No matter who you are, how you identify, who you love, or where you are on life's journey, know that you are loved by God and you are welcome here.”



First United Church of Christ

Schedule for the Season of Lent

Maundy Thursday - April 6, 6:00 pm

Good Friday - April 7, 1:30 pm

Luke 15:11-19

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."

"THE GREATNESS (GRACE) OF A COMMUNITY IS MOST ACCURATELY MEASURED BY THE COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS."

CORETTA SCOTT KING

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