



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

First United Church of Christ

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

Blessed!!

!!Crucify!!

...forgive...

“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

April 2, 2023

Greetings and Announcements

Silence

Prelude and bringing in the light

Offering: *Messenger* *Mary Oliver*

*My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird –
equal seekers of sweetness...*

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. 17-30

Christ, Let Us Come with You **Choir**

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

Choir Anthem *Go Ye Therefore* **Mary McDonald**

Convicted
Matthew 27 (selections)

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

Crucified
Luke 23. 33-34

Clearing the Sanctuary

Song: *Were You There* **Choir Trio**

Sermon ...so Love died...

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

Benediction *May God bless us with discomfort...*

Amazing Grace **Denny Kahn**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Tammy Young and Mark Pierick

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 April 6 at 6:00 p.m. and our **Good Friday** service will be on April 7 at 1:30 p.m. Both services will be in the sanctuary.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for March: Food items: individual packages of pretzels and Cheez-its and \$25 gift cards to the Piggly Wiggly and Hanson's IGA. 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.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt happens today. Immediately following the worship service we will need a several adults to help hide the eggs upstairs in the Education Wing while the kids are kept busy downstairs. Refreshments will follow. Please come and help out if you can.

Happy 99th Birthday! (on April 5) to Verda McFarlane from all of your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren—and all the rest of us, too.

Its time to start thinking about our spring/summer flowers that are planted to brighten the grounds around the church and the park. If you would like to make a monetary donation you can drop off your check/envelope in the offering plate, church office, or mail it to the church office. Make sure you indicate "Flower Fund" in the memo line of your check. We try and target planting in time for Mother's Day (weather permitting).

And more 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, April 7th or Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 – 12:00. Please specify on the sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway if you would like your plant returned.

Update on Sam Logterman's Book Drive: Total of 1039 books collected. 433 from First UCC and 596 from St John's Lutheran. Well Done Sam!!

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

John 12.12-15 (Tammy Young)

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!’

Luke 23:33-34 (Brad)

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’]]

Matthew 26. 17-29 (Brad)

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?' ²³He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' ²⁵Judas,

who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' Jesus replied, 'You have said so.'

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. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

Matthew 26. 30-39 (Mark Pierick)

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 (Tammy Young)

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.