

April 7, 2024
The Second Sunday of Easter

Greetings and Announcements

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

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

Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 65)

Leader: O God of our salvation;

People: You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Leader: You crown the year with your bounty.

People: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

*** Hymn** *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In* (NCH #73)

*** Morning Prayer (Unison)**

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:** There is no wrong you can confess for which you have not already and long ago been forgiven. This is the gospel – the Good News for you today. What can we say for this gift but:

Thanks be to God!

*** Sung Response**

*Breathe on my breath of God; fill me with life anew
That I may love what you do love, and do what you would do*

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

*** 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 generous people. Teach us to live by your grace and for those you love we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading John 20: 19-31

Kid's Time

*** Hymn** *My Shepherd Is the Living God* (NCH #247)

2nd Scripture Reading John 1: 9-10 and 14

Sermon *The Promise of Resurrection*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* (Red #232)

*** Benediction**

Let the peace of God be in your heart. The grace of God be in your words. The love of God be in your hands And may the joy of God be the song your life sings.

*** Sung Response** (NCH #77, Verse 2)

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Postlude

*** Please stand if you are able**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tamara Straub

Radio Sponsor: Jane Litscher, in memory of David's birthday.

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 23rd, June 30th, and July 7th.

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.

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 our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for April: Food items: Individual packages of pretzels and Cheese-its; \$25 gift certificates to Piggly Wiggly. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated. 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.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way in our Holy Week services this year. From Palm Sunday all the way through to Easter morning your faithfulness to the story of Jesus, that comes to us this time of year, was experienced by those who came to worship. Your guidance of our kids, your heart-felt readings of the story, and the music of the choir all contributed to making this a beautiful and moving week.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Love God with all your heart. Love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus

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, however you identify, whomever you love, whatever your story. No matter *who* you are or *where* you are on life's journey, you are welcome *as you are* here at First United Church of Christ - Sauk City.

Origins of the Old Testament Class: Everyone is welcome to come and listen to Dr. Peter Enns share his research and insights on the origins of the Old Testament. Dr. Enns, Ph.D., is a professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University in Pennsylvania and co-creator of the Bible For Normal People podcast. Scott Kinnamon will lead the group conversation.

This class is broken into three parts which we will cover over three Wednesdays. Part 1 covers problematic assumptions about the origin of the Old Testament, Part 2 covers the historical messiness of the canonization of the Old Testament and Part 3 covers what other historical documents tell us about the development of canonical consciousness.

Please join us in the Fireside Room for a soup supper, class and reflection time on *April 10th, April 17th, and April 24th from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.* There is no cost to attend, and everyone is welcome. Please see the **signup sheet at the back of church so we know how many packets to print and if you would like to volunteer to provide soup for one of our classes.** Please contact Scott Kinnamon with any questions.

1st Scripture Reading: John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue^[b] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

2nd Scripture Reading: John 1: 9-10 and 14

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Join us as we celebrate with great joy the Baptism of

Jack Nicholas Endres

"The Family of Jack Endres would like to invite the congregation to join them on **Sunday, April 14th, at 11:30am** to welcome Jack into the First UCC community with a Baptism ceremony followed by lunch in the Dining Hall."

Bless This Child



*Dear Lord, Bless this beautiful child,
This heavenly gift from above.
Grant him good health, contentment & peace,
And fill his tomorrows with love.
Instill in his heart a zest for life,
And wisdom which grows through the years,
Along with compassion for others,
And courage to conquer his fears.
Gift him with humor and patience,
And tenderness if you can,
And Lord, would you guide & protect him,
As he grows to become a man!*