

April 14, 2024
The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

- **Call to Worship** (Joanna Harader SpaciousFaith.com)

Leader: We come as seekers,

People: Unsure of what we seek.

Leader: We come as followers,

People: Not understanding the One we follow.

Leader: We come to worship,

Even though we don't know how.

People: Leader: Holy One, by your grace,

All: Meet us where we are.

Meet us here. Meet us now.

Amen.

- **Hymn** *Christ Be Our Light* (On Screen)

- **Morning Prayer**

Creator God, you have given us a world overflowing with beauty. Forgive us for what we have spoiled. You have created a world of abundance. Forgive us for what we have hoarded. You have given us each other, this wild variety of shapes and hues and beliefs. Forgive us for what we have divided. Open our eyes to what you saw at the beginning—the indeed goodness of this wonderful world and the beauty of all who live here. Amen.

* **Assurance:** Anyone...

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 Offering

Offertory

- **Sung Response** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

Gratitude Prayer (Unison)

We see your hand at work in the world around us, Loving God, and we offer our hands to help. Make use of these gifts, make use of our lives, so that your kingdom will continue to grow on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Kids Time

1st Scripture Reading **Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 25: 34-40**

Sermon *Good Things Come in Threes*

Communion Invitation *At This Table*

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

- **Closing Hymn** *The Summons* (On Screen)

- **Benediction** **St Clare of Assisi**

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.

Postlude

- *Please stand if you are able*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Marcy Thurwachter

Radio Sponsor: Steve & Marcy Thurwachter in memory of the April 7 birthday of Marcy's mother, Shirley Moely. Jamie & Karen Wittwer in memory of the birthday of Jamie's dad, Clifford Wittwer

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 23, 30 and July 7.

We welcome to the First Church pulpit this morning Dennis Noonan. Dennis is a long time friend of Pastor Brad. He served in the Peace Corp in Central America, has been involved in many mission trips to that part of the world, has worked as a chaplain to Meriter Hospital and was recently closely involved with the launch of Madison's Catholic Worker House. Dennis comes to us with a lifetime of valuable experience and a heart full of good stories. Please give him our warmest welcome.

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.

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 March: 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.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
Romans 15:7

We at First United Church of Christ-Sauk City have been embraced by the inclusive love of Jesus, and so we strive to be a welcoming presence in Sauk City and beyond. We invite anyone and everyone to worship and serve with us. *Everyone* who covenants with us to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly” in the way of Jesus will be a valued member of this fellowship—without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, or faith background.

you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

1st Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near’, and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25: 34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as