

First United Church of Christ
First Sunday After Easter

April 16, 2023

Music as we assemble - Kristy Statz

Ringing of the bell at 9:00

Prelude and Bringing of the Light

Announcements

Silent Meditation

Opening Hymn - "Come, Celebrate with Thanksgiving" NCH 246 - On screen

***Responsive Reading - Leader:** Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Because of your power at work in the resurrection of Christ,

Congregation: We declare that as a community of faith and life we seek to transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender and language.

Leader: Because of your power at work in the resurrection of Christ,

Congregation: We declare that as a community of faith and life we seek to live in the world without conforming to the powers of evil, witnessing to God's grace by serving others, caring for creation, and inviting all people to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

ALL: May the grace of God so fill us, May the love of Christ so embrace us, May the presence of the Spirit so empower us that we may live to the glory and praise of God. Alleluia, Amen.

***Welcoming Prayer**

***Assurance of Pardon** - "And we all say Thanks Be To God!"

***Gloria Patri**

Offering - Offertory - Kristy Statz

***Doxology**

***Offertory Prayer - ALL:** Creator of all that has been, is, and will be, You are the God who sees us. You are the God who sustains us. How can we ever thank you for all that you have granted us? For you have granted us our very lives, creating us in your own divine image, and calling us good.

KIDS' MESSAGE: Come On Down!

Psalm 88: 1-3, 8-10

Hymn - "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" - NCH 252

Psalm 88: 13-18

MESSAGE - Dennis Kahn

***Closing Hymn** - "Peace I Leave with You, My Friends" - NCH 249

***Benediction**

Postlude - Kristy Statz

* - Please stand if able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Scott & Christy Kinnamon

Radio Sponsor:

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.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for April: 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.

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).

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 Reading - Psalm 88:1-3,8-10

¹ O Lord, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,

² let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.

³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to the grave...

⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.

I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call on you, O Lord;

I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead?

Do the dead rise up to praise you?...

Second Reading - Psalm 88:13-18

¹³ But I, O Lord, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ O Lord, why do you cast me off?

Why do you hide your face from me?

¹⁵ Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.

¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.

¹⁸ You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
and darkness is my only companion.