

April 28, 2024  
**The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Welcome Statement** (Printed on the bulletin insert)

**Silence...Prelude and Bringing in the Light**

• **Call to Worship**

L: We are the Body of Christ

**P: Not by our choice, but by God's call,**

**Not because we are worthy, but because we are loved.**

L: We are in the company of those who follow the way of Jesus.

**P: Created by the hand of God, Redeemed in the grace of  
Christ, given breath by the Divine Spirit.**

L: We have come to worship

**P: Which is first and last and always to be grateful—for the  
unbounded love of God, for the presence of our neighbors  
for the possibility of our transformation.**

L: Enter with joy into this time of song and prayer and fellowship.

• **Hymn** *Blessed be the Tie that Binds* (NCH #393)

• **Morning Prayer**

Holy One, today we pray for peace in a world that knows too much of war. Shape us to do our part as a peaceful people. We pray for harmony in this congregation. Give us—this Body of Christ, a spirit of reconciliation, a heart for generosity, and a willingness to listen to each other without judgement. And we pray for the Creation, in all its beauty and fragility. Give us the urge to care that can only be born of love, the will to preserve what remains, and the courage to act for the benefit of the children who will live in the world we leave them. We ask so much because we trust your care. And we trust your care because we feel your grace. And for all of this we are grateful. Amen

\* Assurance

*Anyone...*  
**Thanks be to God!**

• **Sung Response**

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

**Offering**

**II Corinthians 8: 7-9**

“Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge and in your love, see that you also excel in this grace of giving...For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor that you, through his poverty, might become rich.”

**Offertory**

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

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

God of Grace, make us each day more grateful for your generosity, more generous with your gifts and more giving to those in need. Make us a reflection of your love in this world. Amen.

**Communion** *Break Now the Bread of Life* (NCH #321)

**Kids Time**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**

**I Corinthians 13:4-13**

*A Meditative Moment*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

**Mark 9:30-37**

**Sermon**

*What is to become of us?*

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

• **Closing Hymn** *In Christ there Is No East or West* (NCH #395)

• **Benediction** *Today you are held safe in the arms of God. Hold each other close in the affection of your hearts. And go in peace to serve the Lord. Amen*

**Postlude**

• *Please stand if you are able*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgists:** Herm & Deb Tschudy

**Radio Sponsor:** Emily Fuchs in memory of her parents, Frank & Anna Matoushek; and the Homar Family in memory of Helen van Oosbree.

**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.

**The Sunday School is asking for your help.** They are collecting donations for Mabel's Building Mission. The 12' x 16' homes cost approximately \$2,000 to build, so that is our goal. As of April 14, we have collected \$300. Donations should be turned in by May 12. Checks should be made out to Mabel's Building Mission. There are envelopes available on the table in the church entryway.

**On Sunday, May 5, First United Church of Christ will be honoring our graduating youth:**

Kassie Gavol  
Harrison Haas  
Elena Homar  
Morgan Larsen  
Sam Logterman  
Mia Sunday  
Sam Sprecher

If you know of someone else we need to include, please contact Margaret McFarlane. We would also like to add any college grads who are interested in joining us.

**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, Sentry, Kwok Trip or Walmart. 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:**

In honoring Jesus' teaching to love one another, we have committed ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming congregation, one that lives out the belief that God is still speaking. We open our doors and hearts and warmly invite you to join us on this transformative journey of inclusion, compassion, and justice as we seek to build a more loving and equitable world for all.

*Redeemer UCC, Menomonee Falls*

**1st Scripture Reading****I Corinthians 13:4-13**

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Second Scripture Reading****Mark 9:30-37**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

**1st Scripture Reading****I Corinthians 13:4-13**

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Second Scripture Reading****Mark 9:30-37**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’