

May 12, 2024

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

# CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

### Greeting and Announcements

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

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

- **Call to Worship**

by Thom Shuman

Leader: With friends and strangers,  
with family and neighbors, we gather:

**People: Come among us, Healing God,  
with the love that never ends.**

L: With faith reaching out to touch,  
with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

**P: Come among us, Friend of the broken,  
with your compassion that makes us whole.**

L: With word and wonder,  
with silence and song, we wait:

**All: Come among us, Dryer of our tears,  
to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

### Choir Anthem

*First Church Choir*

- **Morning Prayer**

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen. (*Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Know Press)

- \* **The Promise**

Here is the gospel—the good news: God loves this world; God has redeemed this world; God is re-making this world. In this *we* are being made whole, and for this we all say—

## *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.*

### Invitation to the Table

*At This Table*

- **Hymn**

*I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry*

(NCH #351)

*Led by the First Church Choir*

### Confirmation Service for Dayton Ballweg

### Kid's time

*Happy Mother's Day*

### Offering

I Corinthians 16: 13, 14

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

### Offertory

- **Sung Response**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

- **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

We offer these gifts with thanksgiving, Generous God, to strengthen the hands that heal, to encourage the hearts that reconcile, and to shine the light of the gospel into the night around us. And we offer ourselves to be, by your grace, the blessing you desire for this world you love. Amen.

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

**Micah 6:8**

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

**Matthew 6:33-34; 11:28-30**

### Sermon

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

- **Closing Hymn**

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

(NCH #76)

- **Benediction**

### Postlude

- *Please stand if you are able*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist:** Steve Statz

**Radio Sponsors:** Cliff and Jan Lawton in memory to their mothers, Selma Lawton and Evelyn Skogen.

**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.

**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 May:** Food items: Granola Bars; Personal items: Toothbrushes and full size toothpaste. 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.

**The Communion Table at First Church is set** with home made bread on the plate and grape juice in the cup. We welcome absolutely everyone to share in this meal. Whoever you are, whatever brought you here this morning, if you are even a little bit hungry, come and taste.

**Congratulations to Dayton Ballweg,** who is affirming his baptism through the rite of Confirmation today! We are proud of you, Dayton.

**Sundae Sunday** The Sunday School would like you to join them for ice cream on May 19. It is Sundae Sunday, our annual celebration of the end of the Sunday School year! We will be gathering in the basement of the Education Building after the church service.

## Welcome Statement from Middleton Community UCC

With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We believe that through our diversity, everyone can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.

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

**Micah 6.8**

God has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

### Second Scripture Reading

**Matthew 6.33-34; Matthew 11.28-30**

...strive first for the kingdom of God and God's (justice), and all these things will be given to you as well...(and) do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'