

May 14, 2023

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Greeting

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Into Silence “How weighty to me are your thought, O God! How vast is the sum of them...”
Psalm 139:17-18

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

- **Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 90

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

People: Have compassion on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

All: Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

- **Hymn** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (NCH #472)

- **Morning Prayer (unison)**

You call us to “live and move and have our being” in you, Gracious God. But in this current season we find ourselves living in fear and moving in distrust. Our opinions are set and our differences are harsh. We know there is something that should bind us together, but we aren’t finding it. Forgive our unwillingness to be the neighbor to those with whom we differ. Break open our hearts with your love and teach us to care for those like us and those not like us; to live as your people in the days ahead we pray. Amen.

* **Assurance:** *God’s love was revealed to us in this way... I John 4.9*

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response** *Breathe on me Breath of God...* (On screen)

Announcements

Offering Invitation *Mother’s Day Proclamation*

Offertory

- **Sung Response** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*
(We’re trying out new lyrics this week)

- **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

We bring these gifts out of gratitude, Loving God, for your bountiful Creation and your boundless generosity. Use what is given to bless your people everywhere. Use all of us to be the blessing you desire all the world to know. Amen.

Choir Anthem *Kum Ba Yah*

Kids Time

1st Scripture Reading **Romans 6:1-14**

2nd Scripture Reading *“Ain’t No Grave...”*

Sermon *“Ain’t No Grave...”*

The Table of Our Lord

Invitation *At This Table*

If you are hungry, or even just curious, come and eat.

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer

- **Closing Hymn** *Let there be Light, Lord God of Hosts* (NCH #589)

- **Benediction** *The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ...*

Postlude

- *Please stand if you are able*



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First United Church of Christ—Sauk City



An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power

and the glory forever.

Amen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Sherri Roberts

Radio Sponsor: Bongard family, in honor of Liz Bongard's 90th birthday on May 16.

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.

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: Individual ritz cracker type packages or similar
Personal items: body wash, bar soap, men's and women's deodorant
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.

Questions? Concerns? Perplexed? Thirsty for some good coffee? Give a call and we'll find a table at a coffee shop. Pastor Brad

Monthly Church Offering Update:

Monthly Budget:	\$ 15,262
April offering:	\$
Net:	\$ ()

Totals for the Year:	
Offering budget thru Apr.:	\$ 61,048
Income thru April	\$ 61,986
Expenses thru April	\$ <u>61,208</u>
Net:	\$ 778

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—without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, status, race, or faith background. Anyone who covenants with us to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly” in the way of Jesus is invited to share in every aspect of our life together. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at First United Church of Christ - Sauk City.

"The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget—that what makes the gospel offensive is not who it keeps out but who it lets in." Rachel Held Evans

Romans 6:1-14 The Message

6 1-3 So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

3-5 That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

6-11 Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin's demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

12-14 That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

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