

May 21, 2023

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Greeting

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Into Silence *How Blest We Are* First Choir

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

- Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 92

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

People: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work; at the works of your hands we sing for joy.

How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

Leader: The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

All: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright; God is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

- Hymn *I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry* (NCH #351)
- Morning Prayer (unison)

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)

* 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

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.

Choir Anthem *River In Judea* First Choir

Kids Time

Confirmation Service for Gavin Larsen and Brendan Marquardt

1st Scripture Reading Romans 8:24-28

2nd Scripture Reading Romans 8:31-39

Sermon

The Table of Our Lord

Invitation *Come to Me*

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

- Closing Hymn *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (NCH #76)
- Benediction *Serve the Lord* First Choir

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: Tammy Young

Radio Sponsor: Jane Litscher in memory of her husband, Dave Litscher.

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:* Granola bars. *Personal items:* Tooth brushes and full size toothpaste. 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, race, or faith background. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome here. 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.

“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 8:24-28

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8: 31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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I John 4:9-10

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us...

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)