

July 23, 2023

"ORDINARY" TIME

Greeting

Welcome Statement *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

Silence *...a time to breathe...*

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

* **Call to Worship** *Credit: Alison Casella Brookins*
alisoncasellabrookins.com

Leader: Come. You are welcome here, as everywhere, in the faithful presence of God. Sit. Listen. Breathe. This presence is a gift.

All: We breathe in the gift of joy.

Leader: Bubbling, beautiful joy that bursts from our lips in song and laughter. Joy in this earth, for the blessed bustle of beings that make their homes here.

All: We breathe in the gift of hope.

Leader: Hope for the past, that we can hear true stories of those who came before us. Hope for today, that we can begin to be people of God's healing. Hope for the future, for the world to be made new in remarkable justice.

All: We breathe in the gift of love.

Leader: Love that fills and overwhelms us. Love that cannot be turned down. Love that will never turn away its face, even from our darkest places.

All: We breathe in the gift of life.

Leader: Come, into the gift of new life
In the name of the true and living Holy One,
Who made us for love
Who saved us by love,
And who loves us still,
Come, in fullness of life!

* **1st Hymn** *My Life Flows On* (NCH #476)

• **Morning Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, we come to worship in gratitude—for the beauty of the earth, the fulness of our lives, and the assurance of our hope. And we come in uncertainty—our world is frayed and hurting, the bonds of neighborliness are breaking. Give us courage, Gracious God, for the next step. Give us ears to listen sincerely and lips to speak kindness to our friends and to our enemies. Help us imagine the possibilities of grace for this world you love. Amen.

* **Assurance:** *Anyone...*

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response**

*Breathe on me breath of God; fill me with life anew
That I may love the what you do love, and do what you would do.*

Announcements

Offering *"Let's declutter the Church so much that all we're left with..."*

Offertory

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

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

We are your creation, Generous God. What we have comes from you. With these gifts we praise you. Use them to benefit this world you love. Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading

John 14:1-4

2nd Scripture Reading

Romans 8:14

Sermon

Invitation to the Table *Come to Me* Christopher Grundy

If you're hungry, or even just curious, please come and eat.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* **Closing Hymn** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (NCH #43)

* **Benediction**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Sherri Roberts

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.

The Communion table at this church is open to everybody—whether you believe, want to believe or can't believe as we do you are welcome to your share the bread and juice at Jesus' table. Whoever you are, whatever brought you here, however you identify, whoever you love, whatever your circumstances, whether you are hungry or just curious, Jesus himself invites you to this table.

Questions? Concerns? Perplexed? Thirsty for some good coffee? Give a call and we'll find a table at a coffee shop where we can talk for a while. (608) 669—2926 Pastor Brad

Our Pride Coffee Sale continues. First Church and John Joseph Coffee are collaborating on a fund raising effort on behalf of community organizations creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth. Check out the table in the foyer and buy a bag (or two).

Drink Good, Do Good.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for July: *Food items:* Individual packages of applesauce. *Personal items:* STURDY backpacks with working zippers. 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.

Our Christian Fellowship group will be hosting a coffee and pie social after worship today. Join us for a taste of sweetness!

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. We have witnessed the inclusive love of God in Jesus and we seek to be an expression of that love. We welcome all into our covenant to “do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly” in the way of Jesus—whoever you are, whatever brought you here, however you identify, whoever you love, whatever your circumstances. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome here at First United Church of Christ.

First Scripture Reading:

John 14:1-4

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

Second Scripture Reading:

Romans 8:14

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

“The Church's brilliance is not in lights, stages, and dynamic preachers but when it is extending the radical welcome of Christ around tables.”

Dan White, Jr