

July 24, 2022 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome Statement

*** Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 5)

Leader: Give ear to my words, O Lord;
give heed to my sighing.

***People:* Listen to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God, for to you I pray.**

Leader: O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

Through the abundance of your steadfast love,
I will enter your house,

***People:* I will bow down towards your holy temple
in awe of you.**

**Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness
make your way straight before me.**

Leader: Let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy.

***People:* For you bless the righteous, O Lord;
you cover them with favour as with a shield.**

Silence ...a time to breathe...

*** 1st Hymn** Your Ways Are Not Our Own (NCH 170)

*** Prayer**

Holy One, you have called us to yourself. Our only response, inadequate as it may be, is to turn your way. You have called us to each other. Our response, as far as we can manage it, is to be loving and kind. You have called us to our neighbor. Our best response, when we can manage it, will be compassion, understanding and generosity. And you have called us to the Creation where the necessary response now is a caring conservation and a holy frugality.

When we fail to hear you call, open our ears. When we fail to heed your call, open our hearts. Shape us into grateful reflections of your goodness we pray. Amen.

Anyone who is in Christ, St Paul said, has become a new creation altogether. The old is finished and gone. Everything has become new. This is the gospel of God's grace by which we are redeemed and made whole and for which we all say:

Thanks be to God!

*** Gloria Patri**

Children's Story

First Song:

1st Scripture Reading

Matthew 5.43-48

2nd Scripture Reading

Romans 12.9-21

Sermon

Invitation to the Table

All are welcome.

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*** Doxology**

*** Closing Hymn**

We Shall Overcome

(NCH 570)

*** Benediction**

May the love of the God, the friendship of the Son,
and the presence of the Spirit, gladden your heart
and bring peace to your soul, this day and every day. Amen.

Postlude

*** Please stand if you are able**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Rose Kleinert and Emily Fuchs

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by the von Behren family in memory of Alan, Sr. & Verna von Behren

Thank You—

Dear First UCC Congregation,

Thank you for the scholarship money. It means so much! I will be attending Montana State in the fall and will be majoring in education.

Thanks again,

Piper Finley

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

“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” *(Matthew 11:28)*

Reflecting the friendship of God toward all Creation, First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome all persons—those of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, races, ages, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances. We recognize all as children of God, welcome all to worship and serve with us and consider all who come to be a necessary part of this fellowship with all its privileges and responsibilities.

Matthew 5.43-48

You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 12.9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.