

September 24, 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** (Adapted from Psalm 65)

Leader: O God of our salvation;

People: you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples...

Leader: You crown the year with your bounty;

People: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

• **Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You* (NCH #4)

• **Morning Prayer**

Holy God, you call us to a high standard—to love you with our whole heart, mind and strength. It is hard for us to love what we cannot see, hear or touch. By your grace, grant us the trust that gives birth to love. You call us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. It is hard to love those we do not know and those we do fear. By your grace make *your* love flow through us to the world around us. Day by day lead us in the way of Jesus we pray, Amen.

- **Assurance:** Psalm 103:11-13
As the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward us...

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 *The Arabs used to say...* Naomi Shihab Nye

Offertory

- **Sung Response** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*
- **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Open our hearts, Loving God, to receive all you have to give us; and then open our hands to give it all away. Shape us into a generous people. Teach us to live by your grace and for those you love we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Church Choir Anthem

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading **Matthew 20:1-5**

2nd Scripture Reading **Matthew 20:6-16**

Sermon

Invitation to the Table *At This Table* (On Screen)

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

• **Closing Hymn** *The Trees of the Field* (On Screen)

• **Benediction**

• **Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Peggy Ganser

Radio Sponsor: Emily Fuchs, in memory of Bill Fuchs' birthday on September 22nd.

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

From Members in Ministry—if you know someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call, or who would like to receive Communion in their home, please let Debbie Tschudy know. Call her at: (608) 963-4873.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for September: *Food items:* Individual packages of crackers (Goldfish, Ritz, etc). 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.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary...” (Matthew 11:28)

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. This is what “Everyone Is Welcome!” means *to us*: Whoever you are, whatever your story, however you identify,

whomever you love, we would value your friendship and welcome you into our community. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome at First United Church of Christ. So come to worship and to be nourished by the bread and cup at the Jesus' table. Stay to serve Sauk City and beyond. We are looking forward to getting acquainted.

The goal of Child Protective Services is to support parents and caregivers in making necessary changes so children are safe and protected in their homes. Below is a wish list of items they need to fulfill their mission. You can put your donations in the basket in the foyer. Thank You.

“Joyful Gifts”

*Children are our hope, our joy, our future.
Every child is a story yet to be told.*

Sauk County CPS Wish List of items frequently needed:

Household safety devices:

- Baby Gates
- Door/Window Alarms
- Cabinet Locks
- Outlet Covers
- Corner Protectors
- Baby Monitors

Diapering Supplies:

- Diapers (Sizes 2 & 3)
- Pull-Ups (Sizes 4 & 5)
- Baby Wipes

Convertible Car Seats

Portable Playard/Playpen

Monetary gifts are accepted

We invite you to fill the basket with these new or gently used items.

*This project is in conjunction with
Sauk County Child Protective Services (CPS)*

Thank you for your participation!

First Scripture Reading:**Matthew 21:1-5**

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same.

Second Scripture Reading:**Matthew 20:6-16**

And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

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