

October 29, 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 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.
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 favor as with a shield.)**

* 1st Hymn *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove* (NCH #281)

* Prayer (Unison)

Holy One—who brings light into our dark places, whose love overcomes our hate, and whose kindness gives hope when we despair, bring us your peace again this morning. Open our eyes anew to the beauty of your Creation, the joy of this fellowship, the loveliness of our neighbors. We have given ourselves to be shaped by your Spirit into the living body of Christ—to become, in all things, the hands and feet and heart of Jesus living to make a difference in this world you

have loved so well and redeemed so fully. Now we pray that by this same Spirit you will make it so. Amen

* The Promise:

adapted from Romans 8

Nothing—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. This is the gospel of grace by which we are made whole and for which we all say:

Thanks be to God!

* Sung Response

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

Announcements

Offering

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

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Open our hearts, Loving God, to your generous grace. Open our hands to be generous and gracious. Make use of our gifts and our lives to benefit your people everywhere we pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

First Church Choir Anthem

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading

John 2:13-17

2nd Scripture Reading

John 2:18-22

Sermon

Invitation to the Table *Come and Taste*

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* **Closing Hymn** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (NCH #82)

* **Benediction** *Grace...Love...Fellowship...
Now...Always*

• **Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tamara Straub

Radio Sponsor: Herm & Deb Tschudy in memory of members from the Tschudy, Dennis and Giacomino families.

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.

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.

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. All perplexities allowed. (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 October: *Food items:* Granola bars. *Clothing:* WATERPROOF mittens/gloves, snow pants, winter boots. 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.

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 Reading John 2:13-17

“The Jewish festival of the Passover was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’

Second Reading John 2:18-22

The Temple leaders then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ (What authority do you have to do this? in other words)

Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jewish leaders then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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