

November 11, 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 8)**

Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People: You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

Leader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

**All: O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

*** 1st Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* (NCH #436)

*** Prayer (Unison)**

To you, Loving God, we confess our broken promises. We fail to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We fail to see the suffering of our neighbors who live on the far side of our world. The nations are coming undone and we fear what the future holds. Send your healing Spirit to enter our hearts and minds afresh this morning to forgive us and to heal our wounded world. "Give us wisdom, give us courage for the living of this hour," we pray. 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)**

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 3:1-8**

2nd Scripture Reading **John 3:9-17**

Sermon

Invitation to the Table

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

*** Closing Hymn** *O Thou, In Whose Presence* (On Screen)

*** Benediction** *May the Lord bless you and keep you...*

• **Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Herm & Deb Tschudy

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
Romans 15:7

We at First United Church of Christ—Sauk City have been embraced by the inclusive love of Jesus, and so we strive, as an Open and Affirming congregation, to be a welcoming presence in Sauk City and beyond. We invite anyone and everyone to worship and serve with us. *Everyone*—without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, or faith background, who covenants with us to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly” in the way of Jesus will be a valued member of this fellowship.

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.

If you have pets you love, or animals under your care, clear your calendar for Wednesday evening, November 15, and join us for a soup and bread supper followed by a special ***Blessing of the Animals*** service in the sanctuary. Supper will be served at 5:30. Watch you email or Facebook for more details to come very soon.

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!

John 3:1-8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’

Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’

John 3:9-17

Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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