

November 12, 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** **Isaiah 55:6-9**

L: Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

P: Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

L: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

* **1st Hymn** *Sing Them Over Again to Me* (NCH #319)

• **Prayer (Unison)**

God more gracious than we can imagine, gratitude brings us to worship and fellowship this morning. We come—some with full hearts and some running on empty; some feeling safe and others uncertain what will come next; some of us well and others with minds or bodies rebelling against good health. Holy One, who knows our faces and remembers our names, speak by your Spirit words of comfort where they are needed, words of correction to help us do better, and words of hope to live into our future in this world you have loved so well and redeemed so fully, we pray. Amen.

* **The Promise:** **adapted from Psalm 103**

As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. As a father (or a mother) have compassion for their children, so the Lord has compassion for us." By this compassion we are forgiven and made whole, and so 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 bring these gifts out of gratitude, Generous God, for the abundance of your earth that feeds the abundance of our lives. Teach us to live in Jesus' name—to be careful citizens of your world and caring neighbors to your people, whoever they are and where ever they live. Amen.

First Church Choir Anthem

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading **John 3:1-8**

2nd Scripture Reading **John 4:1-7**

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** *Help Us Accept Each Other* (NCH #388)

* **Benediction**

*The love and affection of the angels be to you
The love and affection of the saints be to you
The love and affection of heaven be to you
To guard you and to cherish you*

Celtic Prayers from Iona

• **Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Jaime Wittwer

Radio Sponsor: Cliff & Jan Lawton in memory of their son Jason Berry

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.

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. Supper will be served at 5:30 in the dining hall in the Education wing. Check your email or our Facebook page for more details.

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 November: *Food items:* Ritz type crackers. *Clothing:* Pads, tampons and panty liners. 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.

1st Scripture Reading: 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.’

2nd Scripture Reading: John 4:1-7

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, ‘Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John’— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’.