

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power

and the glory forever.

Amen

First United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Sauk City, WI 53583

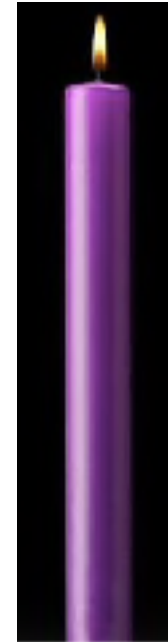
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First Sunday in Advent



*“Poverty exists not because we can't feed the poor but
because we can't satisfy the rich”*

*Author unknown (but it's the sort of thing
Mary might have said)*



November 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Greeting

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Silence ...a time to breathe...

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

* Call to Worship Lighting the 1st Candle of Advent

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Shine On Us

Unison

Shine on us, O God of just-ice; guide our path through
gloom of night; Bear with-in us Wis-dom's glo-ry
Come to us, O Christ the Light.

• * 1st Hymn All Earth Is Waiting (NCH #121)

• **Prayer:** Holy One, you call us to turn our lives around, and work patiently with you, preparing the way for your reign. But we get discouraged and give up too soon. You call us to work in community, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others. You call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear. Lord, have mercy. Forgive us and lead us in the ways of patience, community and joy. Amen.

The Promise: The One who saves is present with us in the painstaking work of the Reign of God—forgiving our weakness,

rebuilding our relationships, restoring our joy. So we rise together to say:

Thanks be to God!

* Sung Response

O Come, O come, Immanuel. And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you O Israel

Announcements

Offering “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...” Mark 1:1-3

• Sung Response Advent Doxology

Praise to God, the one who made us Praise to
Christ the soon born Son. Praise the Spir-it e-ter-nal
with us. Praise to God the three in One. Clear a
low-ly cat-tle shed, where a moth-er laid her
path! Pre-pare the way. Ad-vent leads to Christ-mas day

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

God of hopeful waiting, clear away the distractions of this season that we might offer our whole lives as gifts to you. Make these offerings one token of your promise as it breaks into the world in acts of compassion and justice. Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

2nd Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Sermon

Wait for it...

Invitation to the Table

In the Shadows

(Tune: NCH #433)

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* Closing Hymn *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* (NCH #122)

* Benediction

• Postlude

Lighting the First Candle of Advent

Reader 1: O God, we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope.

Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

People : Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

People:

Shine on us, O God of justice;

Guide our path through gloom of night;

Bear within us Wisdom's glory;

Come to us, O Christ the Light.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tammy Young

Radio Sponsor: Jamie & Karen Wittwer in memory of Jamie's grandparents Earnest & Alice Wittwer's anniversary.

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.

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.

The HELP Project is in full swing for another year. If you have toys to contribute please place them in the bins outside the Education Wing doors on weekdays or in the hall on Sundays. There will be work sessions on Monday, 11/27, from 1-3 pm and Wednesday, 11/29, from 10 am till noon. If you have time to join in, contact Margaret McFarlane at 608-643-6327. Thanks.

The Season of Advent begins this morning. Christmas Eve day, December 24, is a Sunday this year so there will be no worship service that Sunday Morning. *The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held this year at 5:30 p.m.*



1st Scripture Reading:

Mark 13:24-27

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

2nd Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.