

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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Second 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)*

December 3, 2023

SECOND 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 2nd 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Shine On Us'. It is written for unison in 2/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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 **Comfort, Comfort O My People** (NCH #101 vs 1&3)

• **Prayer:** Holy One, you call us to work patiently with you, preparing the way for your reign. Keep us from discouragement and from giving up. You call us to work in community. Help us to trust and honor the gifts you have given to us and to each other. You call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your reign. Lift from us the burdens of anxiety and fear we cannot bear. Lord, have mercy, 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 Wisdom from on high; and order all things far and nigh.
To us the path of knowledge show. And help us in that way to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you O Israel

Announcements

Offering *“John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness...”*

Mark 1:4-8

• **Sung Response** *Advent Doxology*

Praise to God the cre who made us. Praise to
Christ the soon born Son. Praise to Spir - it ev - er
With us Praise to God the three in One. Clear a
path pre-pare a way! Ad-vent leads to Christ-mas day.

The image shows a musical score for the 'Advent Doxology'. It is written for unison in 2/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Praise to God the cre who made us. Praise to / Christ the soon born Son. Praise to Spir - it ev - er / With us Praise to God the three in One. Clear a / path pre-pare a way! Ad-vent leads to Christ-mas day.'

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, these gifts are evidence of your presence in the world. We are dreaming your dream for a world made whole through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:9-11

2nd Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

Let It Be...

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** *The Canticle of the Turning* (on the screen)

* **Benediction**

• **Postlude**

Second Sunday of Advent (Focus: Isaiah 40:1–11)

Reader 1: O God, we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace

Reader 2: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Reader 1: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People : Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. 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

The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy for this year has been adapted from UCC Worship Ways, 2023.

Liturgist: Peggy Ganser

Radio Sponsors: Emily Fuchs & Rose Kleinert in memory of the birthdays of Lyle and David Kleinert and Ellen Henning.

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—whoever you are, however you identify, whomever you love, whatever your story. No matter *who* you are or *where* you are on life's journey, you are welcome *as you are* here at First United Church of Christ - Sauk City.

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.

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 December: *Food items:* Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly. *Personal Items:* Full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner. 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 this week on Monday, 6:30-8 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m.

till noon. If you have time to join in, contact Margaret McFarlane at 608-643-6327. Thanks.

Financial Report

October 2023

Income \$14,839
Expense \$ 9,120
Net \$ 5,719

2023 YTD through October

Income \$ 135,412
Expense \$ 129,300
Net 6,111



The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held this year at 5:30 p.m. This is the perfect time to invite your family and friends to First Church



1st Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 40:9-11

Get you up to a high mountain,

O herald of good tidings to Zion;

lift up your voice with strength,

O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

‘Here is your God!’

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

2nd Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be...

