

**December 18, 2022**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Welcome Statement** *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

**Prelude to Silence** *O Come, O Come Immanuel* (v. 5)

O come, O come you Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!

Dispel the shadows of the night, and turn our darkness into light.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**Silence** *...a time to breathe...*

*Lighting the Candle of Joy*  
Noltner Family

*Sing!*

*Sing!*

**Invitation to the Table**

*Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*

**If you are hungry, or even just curious, come and eat.**

**Choir Anthem** *Christmas in About Three Minutes*

*Sing!*

**Poem** *Adult Advent Announcement* David A. Redding

**• Morning Prayer**

Holy One, we hear the prophet singing your dream—*“they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”* We long for this dream to come alive among us. We long for the day when the earth will be protected, when

all the children will be safe and every future will be secure. Make us today vivid dreamers of your dream who, with eyes wide open, stand in *hope*, live for *peace*, breathe out *love* and dance for *joy*—from this Advent season through all the new year. Amen.

**\* Assurance**

Hear the good news: The One who saves is present with us in the painstaking work of the Reign of God—forgiving our weakness, rebuilding our lives, restoring our joy so we can rise up together to say:

***Thanks be to God!***

*Sing!*

*Sing!*

**Scripture for Advent**

**Isaiah 35 (Selections)**

*Sing!*

*Sing!*

**Poem**

*Into the Darkest Hour*

Madeleine L'Engle

*Sing!*

*Sing!*

**• Benediction**

We leave this holy place with the Joy of Advent ringing in our ears. Be generous with this gift. Sing your way from here to the Eve of Christmas, living out the love of God. Amen.

**• Carrying the light from the sanctuary**

*Please remain standing until the light has been carried from the sanctuary and then can follow it out into the new week.*

**Postlude**

**• Please stand if you are able**

*Before everything, after everything, in everything*

## ***Be Kind!***

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Radio Sponsor:** Mark & Rhonda Pierick, Krystal Martin and Kyle Carlson in memory of Diane Richards—mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

**The adult Bible Study** Meets this morning following the worship service. We are looking ahead at the Matthew and Luke stories of Jesus' birth.

**We will be ringing bells** for the Salvation Army for one more week. See Pastor Brad if you are able to pick up a shift and he will get you signed up. Thanks.

**Address Changes**—If your mailing or email address changes please send the new address to the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

**Join us for the Christmas Eve Candle Light service** at 7:00 p.m.

**Remember**, there will be no worship service on Christmas Day.

#### **First UCC Welcome Statement:**

*“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28)

Reflecting the friendship of God toward all Creation, First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome all persons—of any sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, age, family structure, faith background, ability or economic circumstance. We recognize every person as a child of God, welcome all to worship and serve with us and consider all who come to be a necessary part of this fellowship with all its privileges and responsibilities.

#### **Church Offering Update:**

Monthly Offering Status:	
Monthly Budget:	\$ 16,667
November offering:	<u>\$ 11,501</u>
Net:	\$ (5,166)
Totals for Year:	
Offering budget thru Nov:	\$ 183,337
Offering collected thru Nov:	\$ 136,709
Expenses thru Nov:	<u>\$ 170,014</u>
Net:	\$ (33,305)

The early Christians did not say, “Look what the world is coming to!”  
They said, “Look!—what has come into the world!” Carl Henry