

First United Church of Christ - Sauk City

July 3, 2022 9:00 PM

Prelude

Ringling of the bell

Presentation of Colors

Welcome and Announcements

Musician: Kristy Litscher

Liturgist: Marcy Thurwachter

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—those of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, races, ages, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances. We recognize all as children 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.

Psalm 55:6 "And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest."

Call to Worship

Leader: On this special weekend we honor the birth of our nation.

Congregation: We honor our nation's birth but always also honor God our creator.

Leader: Jesus said, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Congregation: We should try to understand that Jesus was saying not either/or but both/and.

Leader: What should we, the people, do to honor both?

Congregation: Following our Lord guides our journey and helps shape our path.

Opening Hymn - NCH 592 - "God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command"

God of the ages, who with sure command
brought forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
With truth and love guide us through error's maze,
and we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.

Our Prayer - (all stand) - As we celebrate this Fourth of July weekend, let us remember the sacrifices made to create and preserve our freedoms. These freedoms come not only from the industry of mortals but are inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus and our Lord God in Heaven. Preserve our nation in the spirit intended by Christ's teachings and our christian responsibilities. We pray as always in the name of Jesus - Amen!

Assurance of Pardon - (remain standing) - (inspired by Matthew 11:28) - We are all God's children and are tasked with being Christians not only in this hour but every hour of the week. By following this simple and challenging task we honor ourselves and our God. Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Old Testament reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Children's Message -

Epistle Lesson: Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

MESSAGE:

Congregational Prayer:

Offertory - NCH 593 - "Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing"

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Doxology

Closing Hymn - NCH 594 - "How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruited plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons:
O may we never rest content till all are truly one,

America! America! God grant that we may be
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

How beautiful sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.

America! America! God grant that we may be
a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

How beautiful, two continents and islands in the sea
that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

Benediction

Postlude