



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095



Fourth Sunday After Easter

April 21, 2024

_____ Liturgist

Dave Bertelsen, Singer

Deanna Gibeau, Organist

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jean B. Schmidt, Retired Elder

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Whether you're just beginning to explore your faith or have been following Christ for years, you and your whole family can belong at Fifth Ave. UMC

***Note: L: denotes worship "Leader"**

P: denotes "People"

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

Prelude: Handbells

"Jesus Is the Rock in a Weary Land"

Kathy Schneider, Director

~WELCOME & CENTERING~

GREETING:

Pastor: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

P: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: How shall we live when we have more than enough?

P: We have no greater praise to offer than caring for your creatures and creation.

L: The earth is our teacher – nurturing and tender.

P: In this hour, O God, nourish us in the soil of your love.

All: Let us worship God, the Ground of all Being.

***INVOCATION:**

Pastor: Living Word, whose love abides in us, You call us to love in truth and action. Give courage to our hearts so we may love your beloveds. Open our ears to the wisdom of those you send, who might otherwise be dismissed. Transform our charity into justice over all the earth. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” UMH #138**

~WE PROCLAIM~

1 John 3:16-24 NRSV

Liturgist

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before Him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey His commandments and do what pleases Him.

23 And this is His commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 All who obey His commandments abide in Him, and He abides in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit that He has given us.

L: So ends the reading.

Gospel: John 10:11-18~ NRSV

Pastor Jean

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM “This Is Not my Place of Resting” Dave Bertelsen, Director

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS, SHARING OF THE PEACE~

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

P: Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, most merciful God, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a Godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(continued on insert)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

May Almighty God in mercy receive our confessions of sorrow and faith, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYERS:

L: Father, we pray for your holy, universal church;

P: That all may be one.

L: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

P: That Your name may be glorified by all people.

L: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

P: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

L: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

P: That our works may find favor in your sight.

L: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

P: That they have be delivered from their distress.

L: Sustain all those who look to You in hope.

P: And strengthen us—Your people—

so that we may be love for all those who find themselves alone.

L: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (Silence)

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Pastor: Let us share with one another a sign of God’s love, blessing and peace.

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

***DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94
(Words on screen)

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Gracious Provider, we gather with hearts filled with gratitude for the love and light you've shown us. Your Word reminds us that true love is seen in the self-sacrifice of Christ. As we offer our tithes and offerings, we are reminded of the importance of generosity and stewardship in every aspect of our lives. May these gifts be a reflection of the love we have experienced in Christ and our commitment to steward them faithfully

(over)

for the work of your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring justice, mercy, and hope to a world in need. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

~THE GREAT THANKSGIVING~

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You, and blessed is Your son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave himself up for us He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for You and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's suffering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,

now and for ever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Bread for the World” UMH #320

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and You have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

BLESSING:

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen. Alleluia!**

***CLOSING HYMN: “Now the Green Blade Riseth” UMH #311**

***POSTLUDE**

Please join us for continued Fellowship in the Lounge.