**Welcome to OUR SAVIOUR’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin *(920) 748-2544*

*www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com*

Proper 20 Sept. 16 & 19, 2021

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*\* All who are able please stand L: Leader; P: People*

Prelude Accom.: Craig Bowden

Words of Welcome and Good News

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus challenges us in today’s gospel:
**P: Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

L: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:
**P: Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

L: We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world, we must change the way we love and welcome all children!
**P: May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

***All: May we Welcome all people as one, created and loved by God.***

\*HYMN: “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” R237/Projected

\*INVOCATION

**ALL: Dear God, Jesus has called us to welcome children as a way to welcome you. So please, hear our voices as we welcome the children in our midst: We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ! And please, dear God of compassion and justice, hear our voices: With the presence of our children, we welcome you! Teach us the way to make the last first and to be servants of all. Guide us in your way of humility and service. Show us how to become disciples of Jesus Christ your Child and our brother. We ask for blessings on all your children in our holy family. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE & INVITATION: “Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

WITNESS OF FAITH: Jeremiah 11:18-20

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 54

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Let us think about all the children in our own lives, our community’s life,
and in our world. What are their needs; where do we fail as individuals and community in welcome, nurture and care for them? (Silence)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Dear God, We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded. Too many children in our community and world suffer from violence, abuse, neglect and poverty. We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care, to celebrate and honor our children we would save ourselves and our world. We need forgiveness. We want to make amends. We want to change. We want to learn to welcome all children, for in loving and caring for them, we welcome your reign of justice and peace.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ, who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care, and grew to reveal your power to make all things new. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and given strength to grow in discipleship.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace [A blessing from our minister]

WITNESS OF FAITH: James 3:13-4:3

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 9:30-37

A TIME FOR LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH: UCC Founding Faith Statement Projected

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

**I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s Grace**

 **I can hear the brush of angel’s wings**

 **I see glory on each face**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

SPECIAL MUSIC: SCOTT ST. PUPPET MINISTRY

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Prayer of Our Savior:

**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 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, for ever. Amen.**

HYMN: “Oceans (where feet may fail)” Hillsong United Projected

MEDITATION: “Draw Near to God” Rev. Kevin Mundell

HYMN: “Be Thou My Vision” R288/Projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering plates by the sanctuary entrances/social media/mail/office.]

**L: O God, you who have given us life, you who have made every child a holy child, we give you thanks. May we open our hearts now and give generously to you and to your church – for the sake of the children who are our future.**

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**ALL: Gracious and Merciful God, bless the gifts we off up to you as well as our whole lives as we try to live faithfully to you in all things. Use these gifts to bring the your good news through us to the world around us. Let your love reign in all our actions. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace”

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

\*Postlude

**THIS WEEK’S COMING EVENTS**

**Sun. September 19 9:00am Worship in Sanctuary - Welcoming Nurse Monica**

 **10:15am Christian Education Classes**

**Mon. September 20 9am-12pm Office Hours**

 **5:30pm Christian Ed Meeting**

 **6:30pm Evangelism Meeting**

**Tues.**  **September 21 9am-12pm Office Hours**

 **6:45pm Missions Meeting**

**Wed. September 22 9am-12pm Office Hours**

 **5:30pm Confirmation Session One**

**Thurs. September 23 9am-12pm Office Hours**

 **9:30am Called to Care Meeting**

 **6:30pm Worship in Sanctuary**

**Fri. September 24 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Sun. September 26 *Blanket Sunday* 9:00am Worship in Sanctuary**

 **10:15am Christian Education Classes**

**COMING EVENTS**

**Mon. September 27 5:30pm Worship Meeting**

**Thurs. September 30 6:30 pm Worship in Sanctuary with Communion**

**Sun. October 3 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary with Communion**

 **10:30am Drive Thru Communion under Carport**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If any of your contact information changes, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION:** The Church Council and Rev. Mundell have decided that Drive thru communion will continue through December, and then be reevaluated. During our Drive-Thru communion on September 5th, we had 14 participants. Thursday and Sunday worship will continue as we have a significant amount of people participating both in-person and live-streaming at both services.

**LOOSE COIN UPDATE:** We are still using the loose coins in the offering plate for special projects. You can still give by specifying on the envelope that it is for Stewardship loose coin offering. Thanks to all for your continued support.

**VAN SERVICE:** Now available! Call the Church Office before Noon on Friday to ensure your name is on the list to be picked up for the following Sunday.

**WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY!**

We welcome all visitors and guests, and we are glad you can join us for our services.

**Large print bulletins and regular bulletins are available in the vestibule and online, if you would like one mailed to you, please let us know. Weekly hymns are being printed and some are available in the vestibule by the bulletins.**

 Primary Worship Service is Thursday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am.

Both services are live streamed, and a video recording is placed on our social media sites to view at any time. For those videos, please visit: www.oursavioursuccripon.com or “Our Saviours United Church of Christ” Facebook page & Youtube Channel

Either the Thursday or Sunday service will be broadcasted via radio at 11:00am on 1600AM WRPN

**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell revdrmundell@me.com 920-385-8990

**Parish Nurse** Monica Gagnon osuccripon1@gmail.com 920-748-2544

**Admin. Assistant** Conrad Winkelman winkelmanc@ripon.edu or osuccripon1@gmail.com 920-748-2544

**Custodian** Rick Stracy rlstracy@gmail.com 920-229-1367

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  The office hours are: Mon-Friday. 9-Noon. If you need to get into the church at an unopen time, please call the church office and leave a message, or call a church council person.

**CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE FOR LAST WEEK**:

Attendance: Thursday 6:30 – 17 Sunday 9:00 - 43

Total Livestream Views: Thursday – 56 Sunday – 70

General Fund: $1306 Capital Improvements: $72 OCWM: $130

Thank you so much for your continued support of mailed in and online contributions.

**Sunday Worship Team 9:00 am**

**Audio Operator:**  Phil Manthei **Liturgist:** Sandy Fischer

 **Organist:** Craig Bowden

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***Birthday Greetings to our Young at Heart (age 50+)***

***Shirley Badtke,*** *September 20,* ***Joan Zeatlow****, September 20,* ***Susan Meyer,*** *September 21,*

***Robert Sauer,*** *September 21,* ***Sharon Wegner,*** *September 22,*

***Judy Lueck,*** *September 24,* ***Deborah Walters,*** *September 25*

**ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS; RADIO BROADCAST; BULLETIN SIGN-UP:** 2021 Sign-up is available on the stand outside of the office! This sign-up is for ALL SPONSORSHIPS! Altar flowers are $25 and Organ flowers are $16 each. Radio Broadcasts are $50 per sponsor & $25 per sponsor per bulletin. You can also send a letter with payment into the office or call the office to sign up. Please remember to send payment in for your signed-up slots.

**LIVE STREAMING:** If you are viewing the worship from one of our social media platforms, make sure to leave a comment or like our post to know you’re worshipping with us! If there is an issue with the stream, or you have any feedback, please reach out to Conrad.

**PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:** Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367

**COVID RESTRICTION UPDATE:** The CDC has adjusted some of their guidelines that affect us as a church. If you are fully vaccinated and more than two weeks pass, you can return to normal. If you’re not vaccinated, it is still recommended to wear a mask and maintain 3ft. social distancing. We trust you to make wise decisions for the safety of our community and for your own personal safety.

**AED TRAINING:** If you’re interested in becoming AED trained and certified, please reach out to Dianne Heyn (contact information below), or the church office.

**BLANKET SUNDAY:** Missions Committee is holding their *Blanket Sunday* September 26th. Donation envelopes are available in the office, the information desk outside the office, and the entrances with bulletins.

**MISSIONS FOOD COLLECTION:** In the Month of September, Canned Fruit and Vegetables are the recommended food items to be donated.

**HELLO FROM NEW PARISH NURSE:** Hello everyone! My name is Monica Gagnon and I am thankful to have this unique opportunity to serve you! I’m originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan but now live in Waupun. I have served 22 years in the Navy and 20 years in Corrections both as a nurse. Please stop by Tuesdays 9am-noon for a blood pressure check, to discuss any health issues or just to say hi. I will also be making visitations on Tuesdays and Thursdays. After the 2nd Sunday of each month after service, come have your Blood Pressure checked!

**SEVERE STORMS 2021:** Nearly one in three Americans lives in a county hit by a weather disaster in the past three months (June-August), the Washington Post reported. More than 20 U.S. states from the South to the Northeast are reeling from the impact of just one of those disasters: Hurricane Ida and its sizeable remnants, which left catastrophic water and wind damage, including significant power outages. And hurricane season is far from over. Recovery needs, both short- and long-term, will be massive, with damage estimates in the billions of dollars. What’s the best way to help now? Send money. UCC Disaster Response and Recovery Minister Lesli Remaly said of Hurricane Ida, “For a storm this size, money makes good sense as we know long-term recovery and rebuilding will be necessary.” If you are looking for a place to donate, please visit *ucc.org/appeal-servere-storms-2021/*, or one can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note “2021 Severe Storms” on your check in the memo section, or in an attached letter.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** We will be reading and discussing the book, “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent” by Isabel Wilkerson. The author argues that under girding the US slave system was a caste system and then shows how the system here paralleled the system in India. When slavery was legally ending (except for prisoners), we maintained the caste system threw laws until the civil rights movement when we began to dismantle the laws. We are now living with most of the laws changed but still have much of the law’s intent maintained through unspoken rules of caste. The book is challenge and lends good insight to some of the racial tension we are currently facing as well insights into struggles woman have faced.

**CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES:** Richard J. Foster, in his Christian classic, “Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth” gives us twelve of the most popular Christian spiritual disciplines to help us grow closer to God. He divides them into three groups, inward focused growth, outward focused growth, and corporate focused growth. I want to share with you the fourth of these from the outward focused growth called service.

 Service is illustrated by Jesus when he wrapped the towel around his waist and began washing his disciples’ feet as a slave. It is about doing for others so that their life can be better because God loves them, and we do to. It is a way to say “no” to the world’s games of promotion, power over, and authority. It is about doing for others without a reward or even a thank you because you are free in Christ to do so.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Barb Schultz, Billi Kaufman, Bill Waltenberry, Roger Fenner, Lorraine Fischer, Steve McSorley, Bob Schouten, Caroline Sowersby, Audrey Cluppert’s Brother, Roy Gomoll, Linda Rabe, Bob Krueger, 15 unspoken, and all others.