

Welcome to Worship!

Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2018



Sacred Work

What would our work in 2018 look like if we viewed it through the framework of the sacred?

"Love is the force that gives you the ability to give your life for someone else."

(Astronaut Alexandr Misurkin)



First United Methodist Church

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Helping People 'Say Yes' to God

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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Welcome to worship at First UMC Baraboo. Our mission is 'Helping people 'Say Yes' to God. "Do no harm, do all the good you can and stay in love with God" are the three simple rules we seek to live by. As you wait for worship to begin, please sign the pew pad register. If you are a first time guest, please fill out a visitor card found in the pew racks. If you have a joy or concern today, fill out one of the cards provided and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. Children are always welcome in worship; 'busy bags' are available just outside the door to fellowship hall. Our staffed nursery is available for children infants thru age five.

Sacred work is work we do for others. It's activities that allow us to give ourselves away, in imitation of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Aimee Lutz, Worship Musician

Ringling of the Bell / Welcome

Ringling of Chimes

†Call to Worship for Epiphany

In this season of light; Take time

To feel the sacred

To experience joy

To know peace

In this season of gift giving; Take time to receive

The wondrous child

The gift of salvation

Good news for the whole world

As a new year begins; Take time

For sacred work

Blessing the world

Each in our own ways

Large and small

†Hymn

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

The U.M. Hymnal #234 - Verses 1, 2, & 3

The Story of Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

Children's Message

Rev. David Kell

Special Music

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 56:1-12

Reading from the Christian Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

These are the sacred words of scripture.

Thanks be to God for the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ!

†Hymn

*"We Three Kings"
The U.M. Hymnal #254
Verses 1, 2, 3, & 4*

Sermon

"Sacred Work"

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that at times we have not been generous and instead have kept our hands in our pockets. We have not touched others in healing ways. We have clenched our fists in anger and bitterness. We have refused to extend our hands to strangers. Forgive us we pray. Make our hands like yours – ready to do sacred work, now and always. Amen.

Prayer Hymn

*"Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands"
The U.M. Hymnal #273
(please remain seated)*

Blessing of Our Hands (spoken by worship leader)

May all that is Holy, Just and Compassionate bless the work of our hands in 2018:

Hands that will touch life and nurture creativity;

Hands that will wipe away tears and clap in celebration;

Hands that will serve meals and hand out free clothing;

Hands that will hold hymnals and lead children in prayer;

Hands that will write letters and emails speaking the truth in love;

Hands that will hold books, Kindles, smart phones, tablet computers and desktop keyboards in holy ways;

Hands that will receive and hands that will heal;

May God bless all the work of our hands, so that in all our sacred doing

Our hands become the hands of love. So be it. Amen.

Offering

†Offering Response

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
The U.M. Hymnal #230 - Verse 1

**How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in.**

†Prayer of Dedication

We now dedicate these gifts, setting them apart for the work of this church in the world. May these offerings be used to build awareness of, and respect, for all that is sacred. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion (see Insert)

†Closing Hymn

“We Three Kings”
The U.M. Hymnal #245 - Verse 5

†Benediction (unison)

We now go forth into the new year to do our sacred work. May we each fulfill our purpose to be a blessing to others, each in our own way, large or small. Amen.

†Ringing of the Chimes

†Postlude

† = *Please rise if you are able*

SERVING YOU TODAY...

Guest Pastor..... Marianne Cotter
Liturgist Rajean Bender
Church Opener Alice Schellenberger
Greeter(s)..... Rajean Bender
Usher(s)..... Steve Lien & Ann Renn
A/V Powerpoint & Booth Mike Hanson & Alice Schellenberger
Worship Music Aimee Lutz