Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)
Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany — January 31, 2021
Order of Worship for Digital Service — 10:00am

**= please rise, whether in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE "Monkland" SETTING BY A.J. TRAVIS

CENTERING Rebecca White Newgren

CALL TO WORSHIP* Carla and Mateo Campa

Leader: A love that never ceases,
All: a creativity that designed the universe,
Leader: a hope that cannot be quenched,
All: a pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:
Leader: These are the things that are of God,
All: Then let us worship God.

HYMN "There in God's Garden"" PÉCSELI KIRÁLY IMRE

There in God's garden stands the tree of wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations. Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow. I will give blessing.'

All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ, whose passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!' Amen! My Master!

CALL TO CONFESSION* Becky Erbe

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives: The fear that stifles us, the prejudice that blinds us, the ignorance that hobbles us, the doubt that plagues us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely place, see the world with new and gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed, have faith that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name together and now in silence…

One Minute of Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE AND PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ann Stites

EARLY WORD Rachel Huffman

SONG "There Is a Balm in Gilead" SPIRITUAL
Paul Laprade, voice, piano

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 6:1-16

SERMON "Rest with Rules"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Andy Newgren

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 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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

There are three ways to give of yourself to the church: 1. The obvious, money. You can mail in your offering or click the orange DONATE button top right at secondfirst.org. Text to give is live! Text Give $__ *to 815-335-9911 and follow the instructions. 2. Send your prayer requests to Pastor Becky: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org. 3. Make yourself known to this community or offer your time/talent by emailing Rev. Rebecca: rebecca@secondfirst.org.*

SONG OF OFFERING "Lead Me, Guide Me" D. AKERS
Paul Laprade, piano, voices

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Morning on the Milkweed" J. COTTER

*Beth Merrill Neal

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist
Andy Newgren, video
Wes Hegge, sound

Prayer Requests

Please keep these members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. Additions to the prayer list are always welcome. Prayer requests will be listed for one month. If you would like to remain on longer, please notify the office.

- Continue prayers for Stephanie Cooper, Diana Fry, Roman Ramirez, Lenore Lund, Doris Rowald, Marsha Martin, Julie Cook Ramirez (broken arm), Diego Cevallos, Joyce Pennow, Charles Costello, Katy Paterson, Roman Campa, Ron Schaad, Barbara Smith (daughter of Alice Pampe), Terri Keller (daughter in law of Cara Keller), Jean Herro, Pastor Rebecca, Jackie Chamberlain, Cathy Toepfer (daughter of Jackie Chamberlain), Leah Baskin, and Philip & Shirley Davidson.
- And we pray for all those at home and in long-term care facilities, who may not be in worship regularly, but who remain part of our family of faith: Nancy Gallegos, Miriam Richardson, Jan Elliott, Willene Ziebell, Norman Fry, Darlene Miller, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Susan Dodillet, Charles Rosche, Arlene Snap, Lillian Smith, and Betty Haegg.

Happy Hour and Coffee Hour

We have been enjoying happy hour chats on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. If you can't make that time and would still like to see familiar faces, we're adding coffee hour after church the third Sunday at 11:00 am. Our next gatherings will be **Thursday, February 4**, for Happy Hour and **Sunday, February 21**, for Coffee Hour. Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you.

Coffee Class Sunday 8:30 am

Feb 7: Theology as Autobiography, Special Guest Colby Dickinson, Loyola University

Giving an account of one's *faith* is at the same time to give an account of *oneself*—an act that is as relevant for theology as for any other facet of one's life. Traditionally, this is why the word *confession* has two meanings: to profess what one believes and to give a personal account of one's life and actions. Doing theology, in this sense, is an auto/biographical act that demonstrates the relevance of a particular life story and its context as things that are essential to the shaping of one's theological views. In turn, theology itself only becomes possible through individual life stories, something that theology has historically been loath to admit directly. Yet throughout the history of theological thought, the role of auto/biography has played a significant role in shaping the contours of its tradition. Through the lenses of ancient and contemporary Christian autobiographical writings (for example, from Augustine's classic *Confessions* to Mary Karr's memoir *Lit*), we will look at the role that auto/biography plays in shaping theological reflection as well as further understanding the daily operations of theology within a person's life of faith. As such, we can perhaps learn to see theology *through* the lives of those who make up traditions of faith.

SecondFirst Film Series on Racial Discrimination: *The Butler* February 10 Noon and February 11, 7pm

America's history of racial discrimination is well documented with filmmakers bringing their unique perspective and storytelling prowess. Join us for the first of what may become more discussions exploring and better understanding this history through film. In February we will watch Lee Daniels' *The Butler*, starring Oprah Winfrey and Forest Whitaker. Here are the logistics. On your own, watch *The Butler* in any way possible - on Netflix, rent on other streaming platforms like Amazon or Xfinity, or borrow the DVD from your local library. Then gather for one of two discussion sessions to discuss and reflect on the film. Both sessions will be held on Zoom.

Registration is not required but helpful for our planning purposes. Contact Andy Newgren to register or to ask any questions. A Zoom link will be forthcoming.

Save the New Date! *Monday, February 22,* Feeding our Neighbors! Food Bank Truck 10 am-12:30 pm

under the sponsorship of the Missions Ministry Team, we will be hosting the Northern Illinois Food Bank truck! They will provide packages of foods to over 250 people in a drive-through setting. YOU can help! We need 10-15 volunteers from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm to make this event proceed smoothly In our area, 1 in 11 children struggles with hunger; the need, especially in this time of COVID-19, is great. Please offer your time and energy and call the church office to let us know that YOU can help on this day. Questions? Please contact Pastor Becky. See you then!

Virtual Dinner Parties with Rev Rebecca

It's been a long time since I've seen you and I want to check in with you and spend some time with you....for now, it has to be virtual. So grab some other friends and let's enjoy dinner, lunch, coffee, whatever together. Call, text or email Rev. Rebecca to schedule.

Serious Soup Monday's 11:30 am -12:30 pm

Serious Soup is serving our neighbors safely. A few tables will be set up outside for guests to sit as they eat. Lunches will be warm to go bag lunches. Contact: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Nominating Ministry Team

It is that time of year again when we are asking you to share your gifts and talents. The Church Ministry Teams are seeking enthusiastic people to be part of their teams. There is something for every interest. Team membership builds lasting friendships, provides a stronger sense of belonging and gives the feeling of accomplishment. As a result of COVID 19, meetings at this point will be held via Zoom. This eliminates the need to drive at night, go downtown at night, and gives us the ability to attend a meeting from nearly any location.

Do you want to know more about Second First Church? Join a Ministry Team. You don't have to be a member to join. However, we are certain that if you join a Ministry Team you will want to be a member of the church also. If you would like to suggest yourself or someone else to fill a spot on a ministry team call the office at 815-963-8431. Katy Paterson, Chair, Phil Davidson, Co-Chair

Offering Envelopes

The dated Offering Envelope Boxes for 2021 are available in the office. Please call ahead and we will have them inside the door for pick up.

Annual Budget and Foundation Meeting Announcement

Join together via ZOOM at 11:00 am Sunday, February 14, 2021 for the Annual Budget and Foundation Meeting. Budget packets will be available February 7.

Second Congregational / First Presbyterian Church
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