



Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Order of Worship for Digital Service

10:00am

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

PRELUDE

"Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

PARRY, SETTING BY W. KERR

CENTERING

Rebecca White Newgren

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Becky Erbe

Leader: let us gather today and lift our voices in song and praise to God.

All: For once we were lost in sin and cried out to God for a Savior.

Leader: And God heard our pleas and in Jesus Christ we have salvation.

All: So let us sing and give praise to Almighty God!

Leader: And let us walk in the way of the Lord forever!

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

HYMN

"The Lord is God"

ARR. L. MASON

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

At night or day, at home, away, together and apart, O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

CALL TO CONFESSION*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of extraordinary grace, we acknowledge with sadness our responsibility for the condition of sin that dominates our lives, as well as for the many acts of sin that it produces. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us from the rich storehouses of Your mercy the grace that we need to become faithful and productive children of Yours purveyors of light and life rather than darkness and death. In the forgiving name of Jesus we pray in this silence...

One Minute of Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE AND PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ann Stites

EARLY WORD

Andy Newgren

SONG

"Jesu, Jesu"

BASED ON A FOLKSONG FROM GHANA

Paul Laprade, voice, guitars

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-42

SERMON

"A Samaritan, Mary and Martha walk into a bar..."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

"Lord, I Want to Be A Christian"
Paul Laprade voices, guitars

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"What Wondrous Love is This"

ARR. J. COTTER

**written by Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff*

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 **Emily Marlow, (niece of Linda Miller)**, Stephanie Cooper, Diana Fry, Roman Ramirez, Lenore Lund, Doris Rowald, Marsha Martin, Julie Cook Ramirez (broken arm), Joyce Pennow, Charles Costello, Katy Paterson, Roman Campa, Ron Schaad, Barbara Smith (daughter of Alice Pampe), 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 6:30 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 gathering will be **This Sunday, February 21**, for Coffee Hour and **Thursday, March 4**, for Happy Hour. Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you on Zoom. Contact Debbie for the link.

Coffee Class continues to gather each Sunday at 8:30 am with a wide range of topics. Exact sessions are still being finalized, but this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others. Contact Andy Newgren to receive the Zoom invite or be added to the email distribution list.

The Universal Christ Discussion Group

Richard Rohr, author of *The Universal Christ*, says, "Incarnation is the oldest Christian story. Through Christ, God is pouring God's self into all creation. To be Christian, then, is to see Christ in everything." If you are interested in digging deeper into the principles, values, and application of Rohr's understanding of the Christ, then you should consider joining a small group discussion. This will be a guided discussion using the [companion guide for groups](#). Visit the [Center for Action and Contemplation](#) for more info. Contact [Andy Newgren](#) to get involved. .

We have a new location for the Food Truck on Monday, February 22: Haskell School!

Volunteers should arrive at 10:00am. We begin serving at 11:00 am. We will serve until 12:30 or until the food runs out. Volunteers will be loading pre-packaged boxes into trunks. Contact is minimal. Haskell school is very excited that we can serve another area of our Jeremiah Development that is impoverished. Call the church office to sign up to help.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING: OGHS Sunday, March 14

We will be accepting an offering to support One Great Hour of Sharing, commonly called OGHS. The funds raised support activities in disaster relief and refugee relief, both in the US and around the world. How to give: use the special envelope or make a check out to the church and write OGHS in the memo line. The world thanks you!

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.

Second Congregational / First Presbyterian Church
318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL. 61101
815.963.8431



ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER STATIONS

February 17, call/email office to register for a time

Come spend time in the sanctuary in prayer and meditation to ready yourself for the journey of Lent. To be Covid safe, individuals will be allotted their own time. Single use ash containers will be available. Register with Debbie in the office, debbie.wise@secondfirst.org or 815-963-8431.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP ON ZOOM

February 17, 6:30 p.m.

Grab a potted plant and use the dirt to remind yourself of your connection with all living things, the delicate nature of our lives and our the constant strength of the God who made us, claims us and calls us by name. Even in this unusual format, we will find peace and joy in the Holy Spirit that will propel us into our Lenten journey. Zoom meeting ID: 869 0281 1469 Password: 0701216564 or Call in: 312-626-6799

DAILY READING

Were You There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals by Luke A Powery

Looking for joy in the midst of a global pandemic? African American spirituals were born out of seeing God within hard circumstances. Dr. Luke Powery, the Dean of the Chapel of Duke University, explores one song each day in a short, simple and inspiring format. Books are available at your favorite bookstore or in the church office, \$10 suggested donation. Let's come together and be encouraged by soul stirring spirituals.

STORIES OF THE BIBLE

Tuesdays, noon-1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Following the Narrative Lectionary and using the stories of the Bible for the Sunday to come that lead us to the cross and resurrection, we will ask good questions of the Bible, of Jesus and of ourselves. No Bible experience necessary. Led by Rev. Rebecca. Zoom meeting ID: 841 9910 2715 Password: 5160900791 or Call in: 312-626-6799

MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Based off of the week's readings from *Were You There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals* by Luke A Powery, come be uplifted by the powerful words and tunes of these African American Spirituals. (No prior reading necessary to enjoy). This will be a time of prayer and reflection, meditation and sharing led by Rev. Rebecca and Pastor Jermel Flannigan, former pastor New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. Let's be together virtually. Zoom meeting ID: 867 3178 6108 Password: 5668102835 or Call in: 312-626-6799

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION WITH SANDY WILLIAMS

Thursdays, March 4 - 25, noon to 12:55 p.m. on Zoom

Sit back, relax and be blessed by these guided meditations focusing on mindfulness of breath and body with loving kindness. Come learn this sabbath practice with SecondFirst member Sandy Williams, a complimentary health care provider who focuses on the interplay of mind, body and spirit. Zoom meeting ID: 818 7271 8223 Password: 6660658599 or Call in: 312-626-6799