



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship for Digital Service

March 14, 2021
10:00am

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

PRELUDE "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" CRUGER/J. W. KERR

CENTERING Rebecca White Newgren

CALL TO WORSHIP* Becky Erbe

Leader: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

All: We are the salt of the earth.

Leader: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

All: We are the light of the world.

Leader: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

All: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

Leader: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

All: Come, let us love one another with the love of God.

HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" W. C. SMITH

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in the light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CALL TO CONFESSION** Andy Newgren

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Wise and Gracious God, we are each a small dot, a pixel in the picture of your amazing creation. You have designed us to work together. And yet we continue to separate ourselves, to live as if our strength lies in our individuality. We confess to you that we often find it easier to celebrate our solitude, to thrive on our individual gain as more important than others. We pray that you will impress upon us your definition of "one" as together, and that we will seek both the ability and courage to move away from "one" that is each of us alone. Forgive us as we pray in this silence...

One Minute of Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE AND PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Katy Paterson

EARLY WORD Becky Erbe

SONG "Poor Man Laz'rus" ARR. HAIRSTON
Hyde Park Community UMC Church Men's Choir of Cincinnati

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16:19-31

SERMON

"Rich for What?"

Rebecca White Newgren

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Marge Maynard

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

"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"
Paul Laprade, percussion, bass, piano, voices

ARR. G. SCHEER

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"What Wondrous Love is This"

ARR. J. ROUSE

*written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on *Rev-o-lution*

**written by Rev. Kim Wood

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist

Andy Newgren, video, 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 **Rick Gallegos**, 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.

TODAY IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING; ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We will be accepting an offering to support One Great Hour of Sharing, commonly called OGHS today. 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!

Easter Sunday Flowers We will again have colorful pots of Spring flowers for the Chancel area of the Sanctuary, to celebrate Easter morning. Tulips in yellow, pink or purple are \$11.00, White Easter Lilies are \$17.00, Azaleas in deep pink are \$16.50

Orders are due by **Wednesday, March 17**, if you want a specific color. After that date, we can't guarantee the color. If you would like to order a blooming plant call or stop by the office and let us know what kind and what color you want. If you would like to acknowledge a loved one please provide that information at the time you order. You can call the office to place your order.

Coffee Class: March 7, 14, 21: Reflection - Introspection - Contemplation

Lent is a time of introspection, and traditional practices of abstinence are designed to turn the individual's focus towards God. This three week series will use contemplative practices to drive that introspection process and incorporate theological reflection to strive for what is often the end result of doing theology - increased knowledge of self and God. Sessions will include an overview of practices, engaging in these practices, and group reflections. Plan for active participation and bring something to write on (pencil, paper, computer, ancient papyrus, quill pen, etc.).

Contact: [Andy Newgren](#) with any questions and receive the Zoom if you're not already on the Coffee Class distribution list.

The Universal Christ Discussion Group Forming, Day and Time TBD

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. .

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

Serious Soup has begun with some changes. 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.



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



PICK UP PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Holy Saturday, March 27: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Palms will be available for pickup on Saturday, March 27 between 1:00-3:00 pm

Like last year, the palms will be strategically placed on the fence around the playground.

Please park on Court Street.

PALM SUNDAY DRIVE-THRU

Sunday, March 28, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

We can't celebrate together for our annual Palm Sunday Potluck, but we can host a drive through Lemon Bar event after church on March 28.

If you weren't able to pick up palms on Saturday, we can send you home

with palms and Lemon Bars. Hope to see you all here on Sunday, March 28!

HOLY WEEK PRAYER STATIONS

March 29-April 1 (call to arrange time)

Come seek the Living Christ in the solace of our sanctuary.

Times available Monday-Thursday.

Contact Debbie Wise to schedule a time 815-963-8431.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Friday, April 2, 12:00 p.m. Facebook Live

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday, April 4

8:30 a.m. Outside Informal Worship, in person!

10:00 a.m. Traditional Virtual Worship, Facebook Live

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