



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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Order of Worship for Digital Service

10:00am

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

PRELUDE

"O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid"

J. BRAHMS

CENTERING

Becky Erbe

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Andy Newgren

Leader: As we enter this space, let us discard the stresses of life if only for a while.

All: Our stresses and worries are discarded and swept away.

Leader: May the Peace of Christ fill your hearts with new life.

All: We breathe in hope and healing and exhale fears and doubts.

Leader: Let us commune with the Sacred within us and around us.

All: Let us sing praises and speak prayers. Let us worship our Living God.

HYMN

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

CLARA H. SCOTT

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear. And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

CALL TO CONFESSION*

Rebecca White Newgren

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and new life, we hear your whispers of the holy as we turn the pages of your Word, in our meditation, in our prayers, and in our worship. You call to us, a voice from the wilderness still speaking to all your children giving us direction and leading us home. Unite us we pray. Resurrect in and around us all that desperately yearns for a second chance. We pray this seeking your wisdom and assurance in this silence...

One Minute of Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE AND PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phil Davidson

EARLY WORD

Rachel Huffman

SONG

"O Healing River"

F. HELLERMAN

Paul Laprade, voice, guitars, bass

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:31-19:10

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

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”
Paul Laprade, voice, piano, bass

P. BALOCHE

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Were You There?”

ARR. J. PETHEL

*written by Rev. Dan Furman

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 (wrist surgery), 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.

Update: Easter Sunday Flowers

Many thanks to everyone who has pre-ordered their flowers for our Easter Sunday garden in the sanctuary. We still have a few tulips and an azalea left for anyone who may have missed out on the earlier than usual pre-order. You may call the office and let Debbie know how many and what color flower you would like to have. Yellow or pink tulips. \$11.00

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.



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

Join us for our Maundy Thursday Worship April 1, 6:30 pm on Zoom Be ready with your own communion as we remember this Holy night through word, meditation and remembrance.

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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815.963.8431