



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

First Sunday of Advent
Order of Worship

November 28, 2021
10:00am

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

Thank you for being vaccinated and for wearing your mask to protect our children and immunocompromised.

PRELUDE

"Wachet Auf"

J.S. BACH

***CANDLE LIGHTING ♦**

Jim Ozee

Leader: When the world seems scary,

All: When we try to escape and hide,

Leader: The Holy invites us to confront fear.

All: And we find Hope.

Hope candle is lit

All: Where in the world do we find Hope these days?

SUNG: O come and be the hope in all our lives, though chaos and confusion still survive. We know the path of hate too well. We need our God with us and all things shall be well. We need our God with us, Emmanuel! Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, and all things shall be well.

CENTERING

Becky Erbe

***HYMN #82 vs 1,2**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

CALL TO CONFESSION ♦♦

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about – the story of the birth of Jesus. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending, with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time to sit in the dark, to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love. Heal us, we pray in this silence...

One Minute of Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE AND PEACE

***SONG OF PRAISE**

"The Gloria Patri"

GREATOR EX

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katy Paterson

EARLY WORD

Rachel Huffman

SONG

"The Advent Road"

D. WAGNER

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

SERMON

"Plan ZZZ"

Becky Erbe

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

Jim Ozee

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***SONG OF OFFERING #97 vs 1,2,3 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"**

ABERYSTWYTH

Choir and Congregation

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are. Traveler, what a wondrous sight: See that glory beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends. Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn. Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home. Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Savior Of the Nations Come"

P MANTZ

◆ *United Church of Canada*

◆◆ written by Beth Merrill Neel

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist

Jim Burright, head usher

Wes Hegge, sound

John Maynard, van driver

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.

- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Rev. Fred Krauss who passed away Wednesday, November 17. Arrangements will be shared at a later time.**
- Continue prayers for Lorie (friend of Janet Hendricks), Bill and Becky Kallmann, Darlene Miller, Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Judy Diehl and family (quarantined for COVID), Greg Makulec, Beckett Krieg (great nephew of Sandy Williams), Shirley (friend of Janet Hendricks), Jill Torgerson's son Wayne Gahl, and family, Dan Truttman, (nephew of Jan Novak), Jacob Crow (nephew of new members Josh and Adrian Crow), Roman Ramirez, Lenore Lund, Doris Rowald, Marsha Martin, Ron Schaad, Katy Paterson, Barbara Smith (daughter of Alice Pampe), Cathy Toepfer (daughter of Jackie Chamberlain), 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: Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Norman Fry, Arlene Snap, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Charles Rosche, Lillian Smith, and Betty Haegg.

Festival of Lights and Bonfire *Friday, December 3, 6:30 pm*

We are taking a trip to the Festival of Lights at Sinnissippi Park. Meet at church at 6:30 pm. Afterwards there will be hot chocolate and a bonfire in the parking lot. Call the church if you are interested. Questions? Contact: Becky Erbe.

Christmas Memorial Service *Sunday, December 12 5:00 pm*

COVID has changed our lives in so many ways. We have lost loved ones, family members and friends during the past two and a half years, and we haven't been able to properly say goodbye. Join us December 12 at 5 pm to say goodbye. The service will include beautiful music, scripture and prayer. Questions? Contact: Becky Erbe

Virtual Family Christmas Party *Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.*

Come one, come all for some good old-fashion virtual fun. Join for singing, crafts and an all-out race-through-the-house scavenger hunt (spectators welcome). Sign up with debbie.wise@secondfirst.org for the Zoom link. Questions? Contact: rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org

The Christmas Fund/Christmas Joy Offering *Sunday, December 19*

We will receive gifts to the UCC and PCUSA funds that support current and retired church workers in need. The funds are used to help with emergency situations, housing, long-term care, health care costs, and supplements to small pensions. In this season of giving, we extend our gifts to those who were called to serve our churches with love and faithfulness.

Poinsettia Sunday, *December 19, 2021*

We will be taking orders for poinsettias through **Wednesday, December 8**. The cost is \$14.00 and you can call or email Debbie with your order. Please mail your check to the church and note Poinsettia. Please let us know if you want the poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Christmas Cookies *Sunday, December 19*

Join us after church on December 19 for Christmas cookies. If you are with us that day, take a few home to munch on to celebrate the season. Remember, life is short. Eat Christmas cookies.

Pop-up Christmas Pageant *Sunday Worship, December 19*

Who will be the star this year? What will the story be? It will all unfold before our eyes as we participate (no practice required or allowed) in our now annual and beloved pop-up Christmas Pageant.

Prayer Stations

Once again, we will be hosting prayer stations in the Sanctuary for a time of quiet reflection, a spiritual pause in a busy and complicated season. The dates are *Monday Dec. 20 from 3:30 pm until 7:00 pm, Tuesday Dec. 21 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Wednesday Dec. 22 if needed.* If you haven't yet ventured back to the Sanctuary due to COVID concerns please consider the prayer stations as an opportunity. The Sanctuary will be yours. Contact is very minimal to others. Come and enjoy the beauty of our Sanctuary and meditate at the prayer stations. Give the church a call to schedule your time. Questions? Contact: Becky Erbe

Men's Prayer Breakfast *Tuesday's, 7:00 am in the Dining Room.*

The cost is still \$1.00. Masks required to enter; social distancing is requested (like at a restaurant). We hope to reunite with all former attendees and are looking for others to join for fellowship, breakfast, and prayer. Contact: [Steve Showers](#) Second Congregational / First Presbyterian Church.

Calendar at a Glance November 28-December 5

Sunday Nov. 28 First Sunday in Advent 8:30 AM – Coffee Class* 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School Monday Nov. 29 No Serious Soup	Tuesday Nov. 30 7:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast 12:00 PM - Narrative Bible Study* Wednesday Dec. 1 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 7:00 PM – Worship Ministry Thursday Nov. Dec. 2 9:30 AM – Carillons 4:00 PM - Hospitality Team 5:00 PM - JD Board Meeting	Friday Dec. 3 6:30 PM – Festival of Lights Bus Trip Saturday Dec. 4 9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic Sunday Dec. 5 Communion Second Sunday in Advent 8:30 AM – Coffee Class* 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School
---	--	--

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

Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Katy Paterson moderator@secondfirst.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Rebecca White Newgren rebecca.whitewnewgren@secondfirst.org

Associate Pastor, Member Care and Neighborhood Connections: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Children and Family Coordinator: Rachel Huffman rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org

Director of Theological Engagement: Andy Newgren andy.newgren@secondfirst.org

Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair valerie.blair@secondfirst.org

Director of Handbell Ministries: Julie Cook Ramirez julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org

Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org

Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org

Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Nancy Yoeckel nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org

Office Manager: Debbie Wise debbie.wise@secondfirst.org

Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org

Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano

Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks