



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

Christmas Eve
Order of Worship

December 24, 2021
4:30 pm

PRELUDE

"Canon in D"

Pachelbel

Valerie Blair, piano, Nanette Felix, harp

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Isaiah 40

Rebecca White Newgren

Leader: God be with you,
All: and also with you.

***LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES**

Hill Family

Leader: When the world seems predictable
All: **Stuck in patterns of injustice and hurt**
Leader: The Holy astonishes us with good news
All: **And we find Awe**
The Christ Candle is lit.
All: **Where in the world do we find Awe these days?**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Veni Emmanuel

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain: Rejoice rejoice
Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-3 & 6-7

Phil Davidson

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

***CAROL**

"Joy to the World"

L. Mason

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing (x3)

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy (x3)

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness.
And wonders of His love, (x3)

***CAROL**

"Away in a Manger"

Anonymous 19th century

Children of all ages may come forward for the Children's Message.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Becky Erbe and Rachel Huffman

SONG

"An Antiphonal Noel"

J. Raney

Choir, Harp, Handbells

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-7

Nicholas Archer

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered, Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SONG

"Hallelu"

S. Paulus

Choir, Harp, Strings

THIRD READING

Luke 2:8-14

Phil Davidson

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

SONG

"There is Faint Music"

D. Forrest

Choir, Harp, Strings

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:15-20

Rebecca White Newgren

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rebecca White Newgren

***CAROL**

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Andy Newgren

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 LIGHT

Rebecca White Newgren

Please be careful sharing the light. Dip the unlit candle toward the lit candle as to not spill wax. Buckets of water are available throughout the sanctuary if needed.

***CAROL**

"Silent Night"

Gruber

Silent night, holy night! all is calm, all is bright
'Round, yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake, at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Katy Paterson

You may bring your offering forward during this song or drop your offering in the basket at the main door following worship. Tonight we offer ourselves to God and to the church in three ways. 1. The most obvious is money. The church promises to use these gifts to further God's mission with us here and around the world. 2. By offering a Welcome Card you are sharing of yourself with this church. 3. Your prayers on a prayer card. We would be honored to pray with and for you.

OFFERING SONG

"The Gift"

B. Chilcott

Choir, Harp, Strings

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF

Katy Paterson

SONG

"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"

arr. J. Raney/ E Hogan

Choir, Strings, Percussion

***BLESSING**

Rebecca White Newgren

***SENDING SONG**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

trad. spiritual

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN

POSTLUDE

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

arr. P. Keveren

PARTICIPANTS

Wes Hegge, Sound

Greg Makulec, Kim Craft, Jim Burright, Tim and Darlene Riddle, Ushers

Bill and Sally Hoff, and Betty Klingensmith, Greeters

Mary Spindler, Sanctuary Enhancements

MUSICIANS

Olivia Mikulay, Guest Conductor

Nanette Felix, Harp

Rachel Handlin, Violin

Brandon Lamm, Violin

Hannah Lamm, Viola

Michael Beert, Cello

Terry Mohaupt, Percussion

Visiting with us? **Welcome to SecondFirst Church!** Thank you for joining us in worship tonight. We are glad to have you in our midst. We strive to be a caring, gracious, open, faithful congregation... but you will be the judge of that. We would be most honored if you would consider joining with us as we seek God in the world and reach out to serve one another and our neighbors. If you want to find out more about who we are or what we are about, please ask a member, visit our website or give me a call. Peace to you on your journey of faith. Rev. Rebecca White Newgren, Pastor, 815-963-8431 or rebecca.whitewgren@secondfirst.org



*We want to say Thank You to those who have given the lovely poinsettias
that enhance the Sanctuary.*

- *Cynthia Johnson in honor of Hugh and Tottie Johnson from their children*
- *Joyce Pogue in honor of loved ones*
- *Sally and Bill Hoff, Betty Klingensmith, in memory of Walter Klingensmith*
- *Karen Hill in memory of loved ones*
- *Judy Wyatt in memory of her dear neighbor, Regina Potts*
- *Vera Edmonds in memory of Gerald Edmonds and other loved ones*
- *Jim Brown in memory of Freeman Brown, father of Jim, who passed away Feb. 24, 2021*
- *Valerie Blair in Memory of Elsie and Orville Blair*
- *Alice Uphouse, Sarah Hallberg, Rebecca Hubbs in loving memory of Duane R. DeWall,
Mary Beth DeWall, and Jeffrey Hallberg*
- *White Newgren's in celebration of the church*
- *Bryan McDonald in memory of our parents*
- *Joyce and Bill Zartman in memory of our parents*
- *Eleanor Babel in memory of loved ones*
- *Luedke family in memory of Walter Luedke*
- *Sally and Dick Baker in honor of our families*
- *Deborah D. DeMars Ragsdale in memory of Dr. Richard M. Ragsdale, and in memory of
Harold and Beverlie L. DeMars*
- *Audrey and Linda Miller in memory of Edwin and Geneva Tice, and John and Florence Miller*
- *Marilyn Hartzog in memory of parents, Rolland and Jean Wiegand*
- *John and Mary Spindler in memory of our mothers, Patricia Johnson and Flo Spindler*
- *The Archer Family in memory of our grandparents, and aunts and uncles we've lost*
- *Peter and Ann Boline*
- *Ed and Mary Conklin*
- *Bill and Leah Baskin*

Anyone donating a poinsettia may take them home after tonight's service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Haskell Boots Thank You! By Karen Olson

On Monday, November 22, 254 Haskell School students were presented with a new pair of boots thanks to this congregation's generosity. All students will be able to go outside for recess throughout the winter months and come in with dry, warm feet! Thanks to the many people who were part of the boot sorting party in the sanctuary. We had elementary, middle school and high school age children as well as adults of all ages. Thanks to Holly Beeman's family and friends for making the name tags to label all the boots, and to Darlene Riddle for driving the van to deliver the boots to Haskell. But most of all, thanks to this congregation for supporting this project every year! The Mission Ministry Team is accepting funds to help defray the cost of this project. Funds may be donated to the church with a memo of "Haskell Boots". Your generous donations in the past allows us to continue this project on a yearly basis. Thank you for your kindness.

Rockford Overnight Café

The Café will open its doors January 4, 2022 and will be open for anyone needing to get out of cold from 8:00 pm-7:00 am daily. We hope we can stay open through Sunday March 13. There are plenty of opportunities to support the Café. We will be seeking volunteers from 7:30 pm-10:30 pm and again from 5:30 am-7:00 am. We are also seeking donations of meals. Soups, casseroles or carry-ins are appreciated. The Meal Train sign up will begin December 20. If you have any questions contact Becky Erbe.

Stewardship Update by Dave Jones

What a fine turn out of pledges you provided again last year to guide our Governing Council as it directs ministry that will continue Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace. Many of you have gotten in touch with your roots recalling times that help explain why your faith in Christ brings you to church each week.

Thank you once again for your financial support that helps continue a ministry that is nearing the two century mark. While there are many ways to support the congregation, your annual pledge allows our church to continue and even increase our vital mission at this critical time in our lives.

If you have not yet pledged we urge you to do so now. It will add to the confidence our Governing Council and ministry teams feel as they plan worship, Christian education, fellowship and support of our two parent denominations. Your generosity will make a real difference.

CROP Hunger Walk Reaches \$41,000 by Dave Jones

Last year's CROP Hunger Walk reached another successful conclusion. Over \$41,000 was raised by congregations and corporate sponsors. Our church alone raised over \$13,000. This means the Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition will receive over \$10,000 thanks to the generosity of people like us. The rest will address hunger around the world where Church World Service works with indigenous organizations. Rockford's Hunger Walk Committee thanks everyone who contributed.

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.whitewhite@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

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 Julie Cook Ramirez, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Darlene Miller, Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Greg Makulec, Beckett Krieg (great nephew of Sandy Williams), Warddine, Richard, Lori and John (friends of Janet Hendricks), Jill Torgerson's son Wayne Gahl, and family, 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.

MEET OUR MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Christian Education Ministry Team promotes spiritual growth, development and community service through various educational activities: Bible studies, mission studies, movie reviews, guest lectures and more. *Contact: adultchristianed@secondfirst.org*

Hospitality Ministry Team provides hospitality, compassion, and caring to our church members and visitors by offering fellowship following Sunday worship, funeral services and special events. *Contact: deaconesses@secondfirst.org*

Deacons and Fellowship Ministry Team shepherds new members into the life of the church. The deacons seek to identify and support the needs of members with homebound communion and lay visiting program. They also promote fellowship among current and prospective church members through social events, special interest groups, service projects and other activities mostly revolving around breaking bread together. *Contact: deacons@secondfirst.org*

Discernment and Vision Team works as a long-range planning team and as an Incubator Group for new ideas. DVT helps develop the idea relative to core values, supports a pilot project, and links it to existing groups and funding sources. *Contact: discernmentvision@secondfirst.org*

Family Christian Education Ministry Team works to energize the lives of our youth and their families through education, mentorship; fellowship and mission so that they may grow to love, know and worship God. We help our youth discover that God is present in our everyday lives. We strive to help them develop the wisdom that will help them develop their own belief system and choices in life. *Contact: christianed@secondfirst.org*

Mission Ministry Team strives to build a great city for all people through Christian activism that fosters personal transformation through Christ, community formation, social justice and cultural renewal to the city of Rockford and through us, to the greater world. *Contact: missions@secondfirst.org*

Trustee Ministry Team is responsible for overseeing the financial and business affairs of the church as well as managing the church's property. In addition, the Trustees handle scholarship and memorial monies. *Contact: trustees@secondfirst.org*

Worship, Music and the Arts Ministry Team empowers our congregation to worship through a diverse variety of word, song, art and enhancements. The team supports worship from envisioning to details. *Contact: music@secondfirst.org*

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the ministry team's chair.

*SecondFirst Church seeks to love, know and worship God by
welcoming all people, serving our neighbors and sharing God's grace.*