



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

Second Sunday of Advent
Order of Worship

December 4, 2022
10:00am

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

Thank you for being vaccinated. Wearing masks is strongly recommended.

PRELUDE

“Wachet Auf”

J. S. BACH

***ADVENT WELCOME**

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children in grades Pre-K through 5th may leave for Sunday School and will return to their parents/guardians for Communion.

***CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING♦**

Katy Paterson, Arlene Noel

Leader: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Peace. (Light Candle) We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation.

We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the LORD. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God. We light this candle in Peace.

All: On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all understanding

***HYMN #97 vs. 1-3**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

Choir, Congregation

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its sign 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 burst 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 **Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.** Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.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!**

CALL TO CONFESSION♦

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place.

All: Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life.

Leader: Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you.

All: May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

One Minute of silent reflection

ASSURANCE FOR GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

***THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

***SONG OF PRAISE**

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my peace is in you.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my peace is in you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darlene Riddle

ANTHEM

“Come Messiah, Come”
Sanctuary Choir

J. SCHRADER

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

SERMON

“Peaceable Kingdom”

Becky Erbe

***HYMN #347 vs 1-4**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PICARDY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most High!”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Becky Erbe

INVITATION GREAT PRAYER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, a good and a joyful thing...and join the unending hymn singing.

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

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE WINE

SHARING THE FEAST

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are all guests at the table, and Jesus himself is our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of Holy Communion is open to all, including children, and not merely members of this congregation or denominations. This is a joyful feast for all the people of God. In order to extend hospitality to more of God's children, the cup is non-alcoholic and the bread is gluten free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Darlene Riddle

There are many ways to give of yourself to the church: 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. Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Becky: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org.

SONG OF OFFERING

"O Dayspring"

K. MARROLI

Sanctuary Choir, Bill Zartman, viola

***DOXOLOGY #606**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Darlene Riddle

***HYMN #102 vs 1-4** "Savior of the Nations, Come" NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth that the Lord chose such a birth.

From God's heart the Savior speeds; back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally.

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
please remain seated for the postlude

P. MANZ

♦posted on Jane Stranz's of *Life, Laughter, and Liturgy* blog

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist
Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge sound, video
John Maynard van driver

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers Sam Marlow, Cara Keller, Vernon Carter, Don Freedlund, Shirley Barber (mother of Sandy Williams), Dan Truttmann (nephew of Jan Novak), Kathy Moton, Dustin Eklund, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Beckett Krieg, Katy Paterson, Cathy Toepfer, 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: Shirley Anderson, Arlene Snap, Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Phyllis Seeman, Marsha Martin, Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Charles Rosche, Lillian Smith, Don Freedlund, and Betty Haegg.

Coffee Class All are Invited Sunday Dec. 4, and Dec. 11 8:30 am

The 5-year impact of our Haiti Project. We will look at what progress we have made in the Mountainous town of Saut-d'Eau in the Central Highlands of Haiti, the hometown of James and Odette Casimir and family. They are church members and have led us forward in making a difference. Join us for this meaningful and compelling update to our mission to assist in achieving self-sufficiency in food security and education for the people in and around Saut-d'Eau.

Adult Education, Great Expectations: Studies in Isaiah. December 18. Isaiah 35: 1-10

Join us as we explore this beautiful, poetic book prophesying the coming of the Messiah. Meetings are hybrid for your convenience. Although a book of prophecy, Isaiah is also one of the most poetic books of the Bible. These texts from Isaiah are read by people throughout the world during the season of Advent. With imagery such as the lion and lamb laying down together, the holy mountain of God, and streams in the desert, the words of Isaiah are woven together with great expectations of the life to come.

Poinsettia Sunday, December 18. We will be taking orders through Tuesday, Dec. 13

The cost is \$14.00 and you can call or email Debbie with your order. Please mail your check to the church note Poinsettia. Please let us know if you want the poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Family Christmas Bake Off! Friday December 16, 6:00-7:00 pm

Come one come all, kids and adults, we want you to come celebrate Christmas with us! For those who liked the Chopped Challenge in the past, we invite you to a night of games, cookies, ugly sweaters, and most importantly the new "Bake it Easy" competition- a spinoff of the new Netflix show! You do not need to participate in the baking to enjoy- there will be games, cookies to decorate, holiday songs, and general merriment. Not to mention being a judge for "Bake It Easy." Bring your grandchildren, bring your grandparents, bring your nephews and nieces! Wear an ugly Christmas sweater for a door prize! We cannot wait to celebrate Advent in the church basement.

Christmas Handbell Benefit Concert "Hope for the Holidays" Saturday, December 17, 3:00 pm

For the first time since the arrival of COVID, SecondFirst Handbell Ministries will present its annual Christmas concert. All four of our bell/chime ensembles (Martin Ringers, Bellcantos, Carillons and Peanuts) will share holiday favorites, including "Advent Carol," I Wonder as I Wander," "Feliz Navidad," "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" and "Mary, Did You Know?" As always, our concert benefits a local non-profit assisting Rockford's underserved population. This year, we have chosen Winnebago County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children as our beneficiary. CASA advocates for and represents children in the juvenile court system who have experienced abuse or neglect. Please join us right here in SecondFirst's beautiful sanctuary for a program of music and mission. Admission is free and donations will be accepted to benefit CASA.
(Original artwork by Rockford artist Rebecca Bowman.)

The Christmas Fund/Christmas Joy Offering Sunday, December 18

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.

Pop-Up Advent Pageant on Sunday, December 18

You may come a few minutes before service and check in with Aubrey or Rachel who will be near the gym. You do not need to come early to participate, there will be some community moments as well. We hope to see a full church to celebrate the telling of the story of the birth of Christ.

Sunday, December 18, Christmas Cookies and Coffee

Join the Deacons-Fellowship Team for Christmas cookies and coffee in the gym after Church. Remember, life is short, eat Christmas cookies.

Join us for Christmas Eve! Saturday, December 24, 4:30 pm. in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live

Come and join us as we proclaim Christ is born through word and song! A fun children's message with Ms. Aubrey and Ms. Rachel, a Christmas message from Pastor Becky and special music by Nanette Felix (harp), a string quartet, Valerie Blair (piano and organ) and our very own Sanctuary Choir. Masks are strongly recommended.

Christmas Day Carol Sing Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am

Whether you are in your ugly Christmas sweater or Christmas pajama's join us for a Christmas Day Carol Sing. Come straight from bed, have coffee in the Narthex and join us for worship.

Serious Soup Update

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donations from our Congregation and the Salvation Army, Serious Soup continues to flourish. We are serving an increasing number of patrons. Each Monday Morning, we serve a meal which consists of a hot main dish, a side dish, bread or a sandwich, a vegetable salad, a fruit salad, homemade soup, dessert, and a bottle of water. Our biggest need at this point is monetary donations. We are also looking for people to contribute soup. We have had some delicious homemade soups. We also need soda crackers and desserts. Dessert can be homemade or packages of cookies, etc. purchased from the store. If you have never observed Serious Soup in action, stop by the Dining Room any Monday morning between 9:00 and 1:00. Questions? See Katy or Arlene.

Calendar at a Glance December 4, 2022-December 11, 2022

Sunday, Dec. 4 Communion 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store Monday, Dec. 5 11:30 AM - Serious Soup 6:30 PM – Worship/Music Team Tuesday, Dec. 6 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 6:00 AM - DVT	Wednesday, Dec. 7 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers Thursday, Dec. 8 9:30 AM – Carillons 1:00 PM – Called to Care 5:30 PM – Governing Council 6:00 PM – Belcantos 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal Friday, Dec. 9 No Scheduled Activities	Saturday, Dec. 10 9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic Sunday, Dec. 11 Bells Peanuts 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) *Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God’s grace*

Ministers: All Members
Moderator: Phil Davidson moderator@secondfirst.org
Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org
Children and Family Coordinator: Aubrey Barnett aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org
Youth Director: Rachel Huffman rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org
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