



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Order of Worship

December 18, 2022
10:00am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Picardy”

C. PHILLIPS

***ADVENT WELCOME**

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING♦

Rachel Huffman, Aubrey Barnett

Rachel: We have lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Love, remembering the greatest gift of all, the Messiah. Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

Aubrey: In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us. We light this candle in Joy. (Light Candle)

All: On this day, we remember God is Joy.

***HYMN #93 vs, 1-3**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

CALL TO CONFESSION♦♦

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: How good are we at watching for signs of God's presence in the world—in our lives, our homes?

All: Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction towards you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name...

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 joy is in you.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phil Davidson

EARLY WORD

ANTHEM

"I Wonder As I Wander"
Sanctuary Choir

ARR. R. WALKER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-23

***HYMN #107 vs, 1,3, 4**

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

M. HAUGEN

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm, and gently and caring. Then shall the mute break froth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

Your Kingdom Come. Your will be done.

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

Phil Davidson

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

“While By My Sheep”
Sanctuary Choir

TRAD. ARR. HAYES WAGNER

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Phil Davidson

POP UP PAGEANT

THE FIRST NOEL

The First Noel the Angels did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel! They looked up and saw a star Shining in the East beyond them far and to the earth it gave great light And so it continued both day and night Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel!

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What Child is this, who laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come Let Earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room and Heaven and nature sing And Heaven and nature sing And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing. Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns Let all their songs employ While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy repeat the sounding joy repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”
please remain seated for the postlude

L. MASON/ARR. D. BRUBECK

We hope you take time after church to enjoy Christmas Cookies baked especially for you! Thank you to the Fellowship, Deacons, and Hospitality Ministry Teams for making this event possible.

♦taken from *Ministry Matters*

♦♦Written by Moira Laidlaw, posted on *Liturgies Online*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist
Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge sound, video
Bob Langford, van driver

Prayer Requests

- We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of **Marian E. Olson** who passed away December, 14. **Marian's son is Richard Olson and her daughter-in-law is Karen Olson.**
- Continue prayers **Winona Beeman (mother of Holly)**, Julie Cook-Ramirez, 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.

The Christmas Fund/Christmas Joy Offering Today

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.

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.

10th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, January 8, 2023

On December 30, 2012 we held our first worship together as a newly federated congregation. Sunday, January 8, we will celebrate in worship. After worship we will continue the celebration with a Christmas Brunch in the dining room. Please join us for this special day.



***WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THE LOVELY POINSETTIAS THAT
ENHANCE OUR SANCTUARY***

- *Cynthia Johnson in honor of Hugh and Tottie Johnson from their children
- *Joyce Pogue in memory of loved ones
- *Sally and Bill Hoff, Betty Klingensmith, in memory of Walter Klingensmith
- *Wyatt Parker Family, in memory of Craig, Bob, Brad Wyatt, and John Piper and
in memory of Sue Patrick, Jen Schlicher and Jeanne Claeys
- *Valerie Blair in memory of grandparents Elsie and Orville Blair and in Honor of Kay and Phil Blair
- *Alice Fry DeWall Uphouse, in loving memory of, Duane R. DeWall, Mary Beth DeWall, Rev. Ralph
and Pauline DeLauter Fry
- *Bryan McDonald dedicated to our parents
- *Joyce and Bill Zartman in honor of family
- *Robert Canfield in loving memory of Caren Canfield
- *Sally and Dick Baker in honor of our families
- *Deborah DeMars Ragsdale in memory of Dr. Richard M. Ragsdale, husband, and in memory
of Harold and Beverlie DeMars, parents
- *Troy and Andrea Akerman in memory of Dave and Ginny Wells, Christi Pierce, Jeff Akerman,
and our favorite outlaw Alice G. Delaney
- *Linda Miller in loving memory of Audrey Tice Miller and Sandra Nancy Berg
- *Marilyn Hartzog in memory of grandparents, Lamar and Hazel Misegades, Everett and Belle Wiegand
- *John and Mary Spindler in memory of our mothers, Patricia Johnson, and Florence Spindler
- *The Archer Family in memory of our grandparents and other loved ones
- *Peter and Ann Boline for our loved ones
- *Janet Hendricks in memory of Ann Hickey
- *Dick Lapp in memory of Joyce Lapp
- *Mary Young Merry Christmas to all

Anyone donating a poinsettia may take them home or leave them for the Christmas Eve Service

Calendar at a Glance December 18, 2022-December 25, 2022

Sunday, Dec. 18 Pop Up Pageant 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store 11:15 AM – Cookies in the Gym Monday, Dec. 19 11:30 AM - Serious Soup 6:30 PM –Worship/Music	Tuesday, Dec. 20 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop Wednesday, Dec. 21 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 4:30 PM – New Zion Church in Gym Thursday, Dec. 22 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal	Friday, Dec. 23 No Scheduled Activities Saturday, Dec. 24 4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service Sunday, Dec. 25 Hymn Sing 10:00 AM – Worship Service
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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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