



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

Third Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship

March 12, 2023
10:00am

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

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

PRELUDE

“O Mensch, Bewein dein Sünde gross” (BWV 622)

J. S. BACH

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Katy Paterson

Leader: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**All: Surely, God is in this place
and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: God's love is for you
and for all people everywhere.

**All: That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the
living Christ.**

Leader: The living Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

***HYMN #81 vs 1-3**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

NEWTON/HAYDN

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God. God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode. On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near. Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day, safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to-assuage? Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

*THE PEACE

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

*SONG OF REFLECTION

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phil Davidson

EARLY WORD

Rachel Huffman

ANTHEM

“Were You There?”
Martin Ringers

ARR. D. EDWARDS

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5-42

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Kathy Lawes

*HYMN # 451 vs 1-3

“Open My Eyes”

C. 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.

REFRAIN: 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. **REFRAIN**

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere. Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. **REFRAIN**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

“The Water Is Wide”
Belcantos

ARR. JOHN MATHENY

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER FOR DEDICATION

Phil Davidson

*HYMN #542 vs 1-4

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

GOD BE WITH YOU

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you; smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jesus Lover of My Soul”
please remain seated for the postlude

ARR. T SHAW

♦posted on *Life in Liturgy*

♦♦posted on the *PCUSA Website*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, interim director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

Katy Paterson, van driver

The Flowers on the Chancel are given today are in memory of Virgil & Barbara Keeling, long time members of First Presbyterian Church.

*The Rose on the Chancel is in Celebration of Evelyn Violet Jobs, born March 4.
The Great Granddaughter of Janet Novak.*

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Sally Baker, Ruby Beckman, Carol Eggleston, Stephanie Cooper, Gerrie Gustafson, Lenore Lund, Winona Beeman (mother of Holly), Julie Cook-Ramirez, Sam Marlow, Cara Keller, Vernon Carter, Don Freedlund, Dan Truttmann (nephew of Jan Novak), 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, and Don Freedlund.

Lenten Bible Study Tuesday's 12:00 PM Via Zoom

It is not too late to join us at noon on Tuesdays through Lent! We are discussing the Lenten Study, 'Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your back by Ray Buckley. If you are interested shoot Becky an email and she will send you the brief homework reading prior to the class.

The Grace of Les Misérables and the Lenten Worship Experience continues through Holy Week. We will dive into the six themes found in the story of les Mis, grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope represented by characters from the story. The Worship Experience begins at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Come early and join us for soup and fellowship in the dining room beginning at 6:00 pm.

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee has been diligently working on filling the teams with new members. As of this writing, we only have 4 openings left. Please consider joining one of these teams. If you would like more information about a specific team, please contact Darlene Riddle at driddle88@gmail.com or 815-988-3573. Thank you to everyone that has said yes already!

Deacons/Fellowship: 1-two year opening, meets second Monday of the month at 5:00 PM

Missions: 1-two year opening and 1-three year opening, meets third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM

Nominating: 1-three year term, meets on an "as needed" basis

Worship/Music/Arts: 1-three year term, meets on fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 PM

What is OGHS?

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an interdenominational offering that occurs each Lenten season. It is the single, largest way that Presbyterians and United Church of Christ congregations come together every year to work for a better world. Each gift to OGHS helps improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The Offering is a way to share God's love with neighbors in need. While you can give at any time the offering will be taken Sunday, March 19th. Look for **"Help Comes to the Forgotten"** in Friday's E-News.

Easter Sunday Flowers

We will again have colorful pots of Spring flowers for the Chancel area of the Sanctuary, to celebrate Easter morning. Tulips in yellow, pink, or purple are \$11.00, White Easter Lilies are \$17.50, hydrangeas in pink are \$17.50

Orders are due by **Tuesday, March 14**, if you want a specific color. After that date, we cannot guarantee the color. If you would like to order a blooming plant call or stop by the office and let us know what kind and what color you want. If you would like to acknowledge a loved one, please provide that information at the time you order. You can call the office to place your order.

TOWER HILL 2023

Tower Hill camping is just around the corner. This year camping is July 6-9. This is a great experience for all ages, especially Children! Ok kids, you need to bring your parents also. Tower Hill is a UCC retreat center located next to Warren Dunes state park located in southeast Michigan a 3-4 hour drive. Camp is a 15 minute walk away from Beautiful Lake Michigan and our own private beach! Did I mention sand and water?!! At Camp we have a large Bathhouse with showers and large covered area with tables. There are electrical hook ups at each site. Firewood is provided with fire rings and picnic tables. In the past we have had tent campers, RV. campers, pop up campers, pickup campers. Contact Doug Phillips for more information. 815-494-0112.

Calendar at a Glance March 12, 2023-March 19, 2023

Sunday, March 12 Kathy Lawes Bells 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School Monday, March 13 11:30 AM - Serious Soup 5:00 PM – Deacons/Fellowship Tuesday, March 14 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Lenten Bible Study 5:00 PM – Adult Ed Team	Wednesday, March 15 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 5:00 PM - Trustees 6:00 PM -Soup Dinner 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers 6:30 PM – Lenten Worship Thursday, March 16 9:30 AM – Carillons 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal	Friday, March 17 No Scheduled Activities Saturday, March 18 9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic Sunday, March 19 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:50 AM – Family CE
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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

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

Choir Director: Richard Stiltner richard.stiltner@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

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