



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

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

Order of Worship

10:00am

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

Thank you for being vaccinated. Wearing masks is strongly recommended

PRELUDE

“Prélude” (from Prélude, Fugue et Variation)

C. FRANCK

***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♦**

Leader: We look for help.

All: Where will it come from?

Leader: Our help will come from the Lord who created the heavens and the earth.

All: Let our hearts rejoice in God's kindness and love.

***HYMN #645 vs 1-4**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm, my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing, as with a mother's gentle hand, God leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: Gracious God, You call us to a new land, a new birth. Yet our feet and our spirits hesitate.

All: Forgive our laziness. Forgive our fear. Forgive our selfishness. Forgive our comfort.

Leader: Be for us the pillar of cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night.

Lead us into the new birth of water and the Spirit.

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

ANTHEM

“Come, Taste the Joy of the Lord”
Sanctuary Choir

D. Bailes/arr. D Nolan

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Seeker”

Norm Shirk

*HYMN #440 vs 1-4

“Jesus Lover of My Soul”

ABERYSTWYTH

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly, while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past. Safe into the haven guide. O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee. Leave, ah! leave me not alone; still support and comfort me. All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring. Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness. False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin. Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee. Spring thou up within my heart. Rise to all eternity.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Becky Erbe

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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: We offer our thanks and praise, O God, for the glories of creation...

... we on earth sing with them above as we sing together these words.

Organ: All:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you,
 God of pow - er and might; heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name.
 Ho - san-na in the high- est, ho - san-na in the high- est!

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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

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

"In the Light of His Glory and Grace"
 Sanctuary Choir

ARR. M. SHEPHERD

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Phil Davidson

***HYMN #37** vs 2,3

“Let All Things Living”

ASH GROVE

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God’s banners are o’er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
please remain seated for the postlude

Arr. J. Raney

Many thanks to Karen Phillips, who baked the bread loaf used during today’s Communion Service

♦ *Ministry Matters*

♦♦ written by Joanne Harader *Spacious Faith*

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge sound, video

Bob Langford, van driver

Next Sunday, March 12, we Spring ahead 1 hour. Change your clock and you won’t be late for Church.

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, Shirley Barber (mother of Sandy Williams), 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 Study Tuesday’s 12:00 PM Via Zoom

A Lenten study led by Pastor Becky “**Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back**”

Sometimes in life it is difficult to dance during trials and tribulations. To have faith is to find the strength and endurance to Dance.

Let us together find the passion to dance again. There is some homework before each class. Email Pastor Becky if you are interested in attending. We send out materials prior to the class.

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.

The Grace of Les Misérables

Whether you have actually read the 1,462 pages of the novel, seen the Broadway musical, listened to the soundtrack or watched one of the several screen adaptations you already know the power of the story. Through a video series from Matt Rawle, this 6-week Lenten Experience dives into six themes found in the story- grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope-each represented by a character in Hugo's story and our Christian calling. **This Lenten Experience begins Wednesday, March 1**, so you have plenty of time to get caught up with the story. Join us at 6:00 pm for a soup dinner or come to just the class which begins at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. Call the office or Pastor Becky if you would like to attend.

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 **Sunday, March 12**, 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.

Sunday Morning Coffee Class March 5th –26 "Lent Is Not Rocket Science" by W Nicholas Knisely – Jim Ozee: An Exploration of God, Creation, and the Cosmos - Meditations for 40 days of Lent

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

Preaching Schedule March

March 5- Norm Shirk

March 12- Kathy Lawes

March 19- Becky Erbe

March 26- Norm Shirk

Calendar at a Glance March 5, 2023-March 12, 2023

Sunday, March 5 Norm Shirk 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store Monday, March 6 11:30 AM – Serious Soup Tuesday, March 7 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Lenten Study	Wednesday, March 8 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Soup 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers 6:30 PM – Lenten Worship Thursday, March 9 9:30 AM – Carillons 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal Friday, March 10 No Scheduled Activities	Saturday, March 11 10:00 AM – 3 rd Floor cleaning 1:30 PM – String Band Rehearse Sunday, March 12 Kathy Lawes Bells 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School
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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

Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano

Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

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