



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

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Order of Worship

May 21, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Reflection” (ST. FULBERT)

J. BIERY

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Aubrey Barnett

Leader: Why are we looking up to heaven?

All: Christ has come; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: Why are we looking ahead to the future?

All: The Holy Spirit is among us now. In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ.

Leader: Why are we afraid of death and dying?

All: God's love casts out our fear.

Leader: Why are we afraid to follow Jesus?

All: In Christ, we have the promise of new life now, eternal life to come. In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God, who has prepared for us to enter the reign of God.

***HYMN #265 vs 1-5**

“Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun”

DUKE STREET

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song, and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to loose their chains; the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: Gracious God, we confess our doubts that stifle our joy. Forgive us when we lack faith in you, and comfort us when our fears outweigh our praise. God, forgive us when we fail to trust you, and help us when we do not live as your faithful witnesses. Guiding God, forgive us when we are self-consumed and lack the time needed to serve our neighbors.

All: In these times, have mercy on us, O God, and encourage us to be your love-lived, by renewing us daily in your strength. We pray...

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

***THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marge Maynard

EARLY WORD

Rachel Dewis

ANTHEM

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
Hayley Gotzsche, soprano

J. S. BACH/ARR. M. ARCHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:6-14

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What are You Looking At?

Becky Erbe

***HYMN #260 vs 1-4**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: “Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him when forty days were o’er, shall our hearts forget his promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own; Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne. As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Phil Davidson

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

Marge Maynard

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

“He Is Exalted”
Hayley Gotzsche, soprano

T. PARIS/ARR. L. LARSON

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Marge Maynard

HYMN #832

“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand”

KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA

REFRAIN: Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life, He's the solid rock of my life.

There's no other place I can hide till the storm that rages subsides. My voice cries to God from the flood, and I'm saved because of his blood. **REFRAIN**

It is not the work of my hands that has washed away all my sins. I'm redeemed, and all of my days, Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise. **REFRAIN**

When my days on this earth are done, and I stand at God's holy throne, my heart will not have any fear; in Christ's righteousness I am here. **REFRAIN**

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jesus Shall Reign”
please remain seated for the postlude

HATTON/ARR. V. LABENSKE

♦written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution

♦♦written by Todd Grant Yonkman and posted on Todd Grant Yonkman

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, interim director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Bob Langford, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

The Flowers are given by her daughter Linda, in Celebration of Audrey Miller's Birthday on May 23.

Prayer Requests

- We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of David Deaver, (brother-in-law of Eleanor Babel), who passed away Saturday, May, 13.
- Continue prayers for **Lenore Lund**, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Sharon, Roseva Massenat, Richard Lierman, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Winona Beeman (mother of Holly), Sam Marlow, Cara Keller, Vernon Carter, Dan Truttmann (nephew of Jan Novak), Dustin Eklund, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Beckett Krieg, 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, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

Ring in Spring Concert Today, May 21, 4:00 pm

Spring has sprung-and you know what that means! Our annual Ring in Spring concert. Please join us for an afternoon of music and mission as our handbell/handchime ensembles present an array of enjoyable selections. This year's concert will benefit Get Connected, a local organization dedicated to helping high-risk individuals impacted by incarceration re-enter the community successfully and self-sustainably. You can learn more about their mission <https://getconnectedtoo815.org>

Serious Soup Needs your Help

We are nearly out of saltine crackers and ranch dressing. Donations may be left in the office or Kitchen/Dining Room. We also need soup makers. We have some ingredients for you to use. We have chicken and ground beef in the freezer. We also have rice, pasta, beans, tomato sauce, canned vegetables, beef, and chicken broth. Sometimes we also have fresh potatoes and onions. See Arlene or Katy.

Strengthen the Church/Pentecost Offering Sunday, May 28

We will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Special Offering which nurtures the faith of both the young and the old. The United Church of Christ uses your special offering to Strengthen the Church. The Presbyterian Church USA devotes it to ministry with children at-risk, youth and young adults.

Calendar at a Glance May 21,-May 28, 2023

Sunday, May, 21 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:15 AM – Family CE 4:00 PM – Ring in Spring Concert Monday, May 22 11:30 AM - Serious Soup 6:30 PM – Worship/Music Team	Tuesday, May 23 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Store Wednesday, May 24 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting Thursday, May 25 5:30 PM – Governing Council 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal	Friday, May 26 No Scheduled Activities Saturday, May 27 No Bridge Clinic Sunday, May, 28 Pentecost Kris Delmore Preacher 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School
--	--	--

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

Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Darlene Riddle 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

318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL 61101 • 815.963.8431 • www.secondfirst.org