



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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Order of Worship

August 27, 2023  
10:00 am

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

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

**PRELUDE**

“In the Sweet By and By”

S. Bennett/F. Webster arr. M. Hayes

**WELCOME**

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP◆**

Katy Paterson

Leader: We gather to give thanks to You, O Lord,

**All: with all our heart!**

Leader: We will sing Your praises before all creation,

**All: and rejoice in Your steadfast love!**

Leader: You have created us O Lord, and made us for Yourself.

**All: In You we become everything You have made us to be!**

**\*Hymn # 645**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDENZART

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 tender hand, God gently 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◆◆**

## SPECIAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Leader: Holy God, before time you named us Through time you redeem us you call us,  
precious in your sight

**All: May we love as you love.**

Leader: Holy One, through the turbulent waters make us steady, your hands holding strong  
the fragile and weak

**All: May we love as you love.**

Leader: Gracious God, may the fruits of our lives be food for the hungry, bread clothing, shelter, fire,  
water, word

**All: May we love as you love.**

Leader: God of justice, remove the chaff of our lives that keep us from hearing, following, your call

**All: May we love as you love.**

Leader: Loving God, take this day our fears our worries, distractions, and all turn them into wheat,  
heart food

**All: May we love as you love.**

*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

Darlene Riddle

## EARLY WORD

Aubrey Barnett

## ANTHEM

“Morning Trumpet”  
Men’s Ensemble

J. Leland/B. F. White/arr. M. Richardson

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Exodus 1:8-2:10**

Many Voices

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Fresh Start”

Becky Erbe

## ◆◆◆HYMN

“ There Came a Time in Egypt”

AURELIA

There came a time in Egypt when Joseph wasn't known —  
when people had forgotten the seeds of help he'd sown.  
With immigrants increasing, the leaders lived in fear.  
That fear turned into murmuring: "We do not want them here!"

The rulers told the midwives, "Don't let their numbers grow."  
But Shiphrah said, with Puah, a quiet, faithful, "No!"  
When they were tasked with killing, they saved the baby boys.  
God, may we, too, be willing to challenge what destroys.

O God, you sent us Jesus who said, "Take up your cross!"  
He taught that faithful living will often have a cost.  
He taught us to be daring, creative, wise and strong —  
to make the world more caring, to challenge what is wrong.

When immigrants are struggling, when children live in fear,  
when forces of destruction are threatening people here,  
God, make us like those women, and may we seek to be  
the ones who usher life in, till all are whole and free.

## **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**

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](http://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](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org).*

## **SONG OF OFFERING**

"I Will Sing Hallelujah"  
Men's Ensemble

N. Johnson

## **\*DOXOLOGY #606**

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Darlene Riddle

## **Hymn #716**

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending.

BEACH SPRING

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus'; wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful Song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ your Son: all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone. Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred: ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as

we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

## **\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Toccata”

E. Gigout

*please remain seated for the postlude*

- ◆ posted on the Lectionary Sermons Archives <http://www.lectionarysermons.com/ARCH-W.html>
- ◆◆ written by Terri and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>
- ◆◆◆ Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation")  
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Men's Ensemble,

David Jones, Richard Olson, bass: Jim Burrigh, baritone: Doug Phillips, Mark Stratemeyer, tenor  
Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music  
Peter Joachim, van driver  
Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

*The Flowers are given by  
Rita and Bob Langford in honor of her Mother Beatrice Wisner  
“Happy Heavenly Birthday Mom”*

### **Prayer Requests**

- We offer prayers, sympathy and support the family and friends prayers of Mary Young who passed away August 12<sup>th</sup>. Memorial Service will be Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 11:30.
- Continue prayers for Sharon Ockerlander, Sherry Lynn McDonald, Ivory, Linda Roy, Bethany Stiltner, Marianne Marlow, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Rick Gallegos, Lenore Lund, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Roseva Massenat, Richard Lierman, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Vernon Carter, Dustin Eklund, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Beckett Krieg, Cathy Toepfer, and Philip and 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: Betty Klingensmith, Shirley Anderson, Arlene Snap, Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Marsha Martin, Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Charles Rosche, Lillian Smith, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

### **Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 27**

Our annual Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 27, during Sunday Worship. Make sure to invite anyone who has a child who might benefit from a positive sending off into the new school year, so of course make sure to bring your backpacks on that day!

### **Church/Neighborhood Pig Roast**

Good Food!! and Fellowship!!!

Join the Mission Ministry Team on Saturday, September 16, at 3pm for freshly roasted pulled pork, rice and red beans, green bean casserole, cornbread, cookies and water!! To help make this another successful event, we NEED your help with the cornbread and cookies!!! If you can bake one of these,

let us know! A Sign-up poster will be available on Sundays! Come meet our church neighbors and catch up with friends!! See you there!!!! By Karen Hill

### Children's Fishing Outing

The children's Fishing Outing has set a date for Sunday, September 24th after church. We will be meeting at Rock Cut State park around noon. Kids fishing gear will be provided and we will be led by Peter, who was generous enough to offer after the early word in August where I sought a volunteer. We are so blessed to have this opportunity. Please contact Aubrey at [aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org](mailto:aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org) to RSVP. We will need adults to come along and chaperone, so if you want to bring your gear too, come on and fish along.

### The Thrift Store

The Thrift Store is gearing up for fall. We are in need of men's large and extra-large clean and gently used clothing items; men's t-shirts, men's jeans, men's everyday shirts long and short sleeve. Pots and pans that are in good cooking shape are needed as well. Please see Alice or Ann with questions.

### Calendar at a Glance August 27 - September 3, 2023

<p><b>Sunday, August 27</b> 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b></p> <p><b>Monday, August 28</b> 11:30 AM – Serious Soup 6:30 PM – Worship/Music</p> <p><b>Tuesday, August 29</b> 7:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 30</b> 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday, August 31</b> 9:30 AM – Carillons 5:30 PM – Governing Council</p> <p><b>Friday, September 1</b> No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p><b>Saturday, September 2</b> No Scheduled Activities</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 3</b> 10:00 AM – Worship Service <b>Communion</b> 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p>
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**Ministers: All Members**

**Moderator: Darlene Riddle** [moderator@secondfirst.org](mailto:moderator@secondfirst.org)

**Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe** [becky.erbe@secondfirst.org](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org)

**Children and Family Coordinator: Aubrey Barnett** [aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org](mailto:aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org)

**Youth Director: Rachel Huffman** [rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org](mailto:rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org)

**Director of Music, Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair** [valerie.blair@secondfirst.org](mailto:valerie.blair@secondfirst.org)

**Choir Director: Richard Stiltner** [rlstiltner@aol.com](mailto:rlstiltner@aol.com)

**Director of Handbell Ministries: Julie Cook Ramirez** [julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org](mailto:julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org)

**Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg** [sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org](mailto:sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org)

**Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman** [joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org](mailto:joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org)

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