



Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

August 6, 2023
10:00am

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

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

PRELUDE

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

A. PEACE/ARR. R. HOUSE

WELCOME

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

Becky Erbe

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◆**

Phil Davidson

Leader: Return to the Lord your God,

All: for God is gracious.

Leader: Confess to the Lord your God,

All: for God is merciful.

Leader: Repent to the Lord your God,

All: for God is slow to anger.

Leader: Praise the Lord your God,

All: for God abounds in steadfast love.

Leader: Worship the Lord your God.

All: Together, let us worship God!

***HYMN #463 vs 1-5**

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word! What more can be said than to your God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteousness, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

CALL TO TRANSFORMATION◆◆

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

You have given us a world of beauty, and we have spoilt it. A world to feed us, and so many go hungry. A world of riches, and we are unwilling to share. A world to care for, and we think only of ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, for those times your heart is saddened by our selfishness;

for those times we have no thought for others, no cares but ours. Enable us to see this world anew as a gift from you, to be shared and nurtured, and those who live upon it to be loved and cared for. We pray in this silence...

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

***THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darlene Riddle

ANTHEM

“Near the Cross”

W. DOANE/ARR. BOLKS/FETTKE

Women’s Trio Jennifer Oshita Archer, Jan Novak, Marilyn Hartzog

SCRIPTURE READING

James 1:17

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PULPIT TALK

“What a Gift!”

Richard Stiltner

***HYMN #833 vs 1-4**

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

ST. MARGARET

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life’s glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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: It is right, and a privilege, and joy to praise you...

...we join our voices to those of the heavenly host who sing to your glory, saying:

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

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. 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 Giveth More Grace”

H. MITCHELL/ARR. HOLCK/FETKE

Woman's Trio, Jennifer Oshita Archer, Jan Novak, Marilyn Hartzog

*DOXOLOGY #606

*HYMN #547 vs 1-3

“Go, My Children With My Blessing

TRAD. WELSH/J. VAJDA

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful, and free.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Cornet Voluntary”

J. TRAVERS

please remain seated for the postlude

◆ written by Rev. Daniel Commerford, posted on *Liturgy Link*

◆◆ adapted from John Birch’s *Faith and Worship* website

The Rose on the Chancel is in honor of the birth of Nikoloz Dean Munjishili. Proud Father Nate Hegge.
Proud Grandparents Holly and Wes Hegge.

Women’s Trio Jennifer Oshita Archer, Jan Novak, Marilyn Hartzog

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

John Maynard, van driver

Prayer Requests

Please keep these members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. Additions to the prayer list are always welcome. Prayer requests will be listed for one month. If you would like to remain on longer, please notify the office.

- Continue prayers for **Mary Young, 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.

Happy August Church Family!! Annual Picnic Sunday, August 20, 11:30 am Page Park Pavilion
 Deacons Fellowship are excited to announce the return of the “potluck” portion of the church picnic. We will be returning to Anna Page Park for our annual church picnic! Dig out your go to dish to pass recipes and join us us August 20th after church. The bus will be running and we will be offering snacks to those waiting for festivities to begin. We will be having some children’s activities led by our Christian Ed Ministry team and are excited to ask everyone to stay for our new annual drone photo.

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!

It's here! The SecondFirst Merchandise Store is open!

We know you want shirts and hats to wear to church events, fellowship and volunteering and we now have many options for you to choose from. You can get the church logo on the upper right chest, the church logo full front OR you can choose the church logo on the upper right chest and a custom WordCloud on the back (Make sure to choose a shirt with "wordcloud" in the description). You can pick them up from Embroid This on North Second St. or choose to have them picked up at Church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Archer.

Place your order at https://stores.inksoft.com/second_first

Calendar at a Glance August 6,-August 13, 2023

<p>Sunday, August 6 Pulpit Talk Richard Stiltner 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store</p> <p>Monday, August 7 11:30 AM - Serious Soup 1:00 PM – Hospitality Team</p>	<p>Tuesday, August 8 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 6:30 PM – Search Committee</p> <p>Wednesday, August 9 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, August 10 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>Friday, August 11 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Saturday, August 12 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Sunday, August 13, Bell Tree Pulpit Talk Liz Dickinson 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p>
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
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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

Director of Music, 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

Graphic Designer: Mitzi Muntz mitzi.muntz@secondfirst.org

Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org

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