



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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

September 17, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Adagio”

C. FRANCK

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Phil Davidson

Leader: Come, let's praise God together!

All: Sing a new song—

Leader: a song of God's goodness and mercy,

All: faithfulness and love.

Leader: For God delights in His people, crowning them with honor and glory!

All: Let's worship together.

***HYMN #52 vs 1-4**

“When Israel Was in Egypt's Land”

GO DOWN MOSES

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go; oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!

REFRAIN: Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land; tell old Pharaoh: let my people go!

“Thus saith the Lord,” bold Moses said, “Let my people go! If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead. Let my people go!” **REFRAIN**

No more shall they in bondage toil: let my people go! Let them come out with Egypt's spoil: let my people go!” **REFRAIN**

O let us all from bondage flee; let my people go! And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go!
REFRAIN

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

Phil Davidson

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: The Pharaoh decrees death to the foreigner. The power of fear and hate rage surround us.

All: In the face of evil forgive us our complacency.

Leader: The burning bush flickers beside us. The presence of God invites us.

All: In the presence of the holy forgive us our lack of notice.

Leader: The Red Sea waters stand at attention. The threshold of grace is breath-taking.

All: In the company of grace forgive us our reticence to embrace...

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

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”
Sanctuary Choir

L. LANFORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 14:19-31

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Get out of Town!”

Becky Erbe

*HYMN #435 vs 1- 2

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea. There’s a kindness in god’s justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word, and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

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

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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

J. RANEY

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #822 vs 1-4

“When We Are Living”

OMOS DEL SENOR

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we’re dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Mid times of sorrow, and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love’s embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind, but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God; we belong to God.

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

“Be the Love of Christ”
Sanctuary Choir

R. THORNHILL/M. SHOWALTER

POSTLUDE

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
please remain seated for the postlude

ARR. J. RANEY

◆*Re:Worship*

◆◆written by Katherine Hawker, based upon a series of readings from Exodus. *Outside the Box*

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

John Maynard, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

The Altar flowers are given by the Enhancements Team to honor Mary Young. She is a long time “Flower Friend;” this would have been her Sunday to provide flowers.

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for **Bob Bates**, Sharon Ockerlander, Sherry Lynn McDonald, 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.

On Sunday October 1, Members of SecondFirst are invited to join our neighbors in ministry, Court Street Methodist Church for a Domestic Violence Walk. Court Street will meet us in our parking lot at 11:30 after church. We will join with them in a walk of solidarity to the Family Peace

Center on Main Street, then to the Jeremiah Development Office on Church Street and Mulberry for refreshments and discussion. They walk will only equal a few blocks.

Domestic violence and the growing presence of commercial human trafficking are threats to public safety and quality of life in our community. The statistics paint a grim picture:

On average, domestic violence accounts for nearly 30 percent of Rockford’s violent crime. In 2016, Illinois ranked eighth in the United States for reported human trafficking cases. The City of Rockford Human Services Department reports that an average of 25 percent of our homeless population were without a residence as a result of domestic violence. Hope to see you walking on October 1!

UCC and PCUSA Special Offerings

Our two denominations ask our gifts to their October 1st Special Offerings. Watch for more information as we approach World Communion Sunday.

Maina Talia, a former International Peacemaker for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, works to address the effects of climate change for families on the South Pacific island of Tuvalu, who have been displaced by the devastating series of cyclones. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you are able.

A United Church of Christ sanctuary church offering immigrants refuge in the Arizona borderlands will soon be offering a place of hospitality, support, and hope on the Mexican side of the border for people who find themselves deported from the United States. The Shadow Rock UCC Sanctuary Action Team and the Rev. Ken Heintzelman, in an extension of the spirit and intent of their ministry of sanctuary in Phoenix, are in the process of establishing Hope Station Nogales, in Sonora, Mexico. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you are able.

Bible Study Returns Tuesday, October 3, 12:00-1:00

Join Pastor Becky for Lunch and Bible Study. We will study the given Lectionary text for the week using the Lectio Divina method. Lectio Divina is a slow, rhythmic reading and praying of a Scripture passage. Grab your lunch and Bible. Join us on Zoom. Call the office if you are interested and we will send you the zoom link.

Calendar at a Glance September 17 - September 24, 2023

<p>Sunday, Sept. 17 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Kid Choir 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store</p> <p>Monday, Sept. 18 11:30 AM – Serious Soup</p> <p>Tuesday, Sept. 19 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop</p>	<p>Wednesday, Sept. 20 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 5:30 PM - Trustees 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, Sept 21 9:30 AM – Carillons 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM - Choir</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 22 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>Saturday, Sept. 23 10:00 AM – Carillons Rehearse</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 24 Carillons and Peanut Bells 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Kid Choir 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store 3:15 PM – AGO Organ Walk</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 rlstiltner@aol.com

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