



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

World Wide Communion
Order of Worship

October 1, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Eat This Bread”

R. BATASTINI/ARR. J. COTTER

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Kris Harden

Leader: Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

All: We gather with them in heart and mind.

Leader: Around the world the broken body is made whole.

All: As part of that body we join in its unity.

Leader: Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

All: We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.

Leader: Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.

All: Let us Worship!

***Hymn #475 vs 1-3**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Come, thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a getter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Leader: God of deep, abounding, astounding, boundary-breaking love,

All: Forgive our closed doors;

All: forgive our closed eyes and ears;

All: forgive our insulated living,

All: forgive our safe and comfortable tables.

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

ANTHEM

“Come to the Water”
Sanctuary Choir

L. HASSLER

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Ready or Not”

Jim Ozee

HYMN #451 vs 1-3

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

C. SCOTT

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

REFRAIN: Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine.

Open my ears, that I may hear, voices of truth thou sendest clear. And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. **REFRAIN**

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere. Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. **REFRAIN**

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: Let us give thanks to our God...joining our voices to the great cloud of witnesses we sing 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

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

"I Will Be with You"
 Sanctuary Choir

J. RANEY

***DOXOLOGY #606**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Hymn #301 vs 1-5

“Let Us Build a House”

M. HAUGEN

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all god’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, swerve, and teach, and live the Word they’ve known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught, and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Rondo Benvenuto”

J. DIXON

please remain seated for the postlude

◆ Written by Rev. Gord, and posted on *Worship Offerings*

◆◆ Joanna Harader, and posted on *Spacious Faith*

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Bob Langford, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for **Lenore Lund**, Bob Bates, Sharon Ockerlander, Sherry Lynn McDonald, Linda Roy, Bethany Stiltner, Marianne Marlow, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Rick Gallegos, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Roseva Massenat, Richard Lierman, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Beckett Krieg, 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.

Today, We will receive UCC and PCUSA Special Offerings

Our two denominations ask for our gifts to their special offerings today. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is an offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. Gifts to the Presbyterian (USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you are able to share. Envelopes are on the back table.

Today, 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. The 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.

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.

Annual Edwards Apple Orchard Trip Thursday, October 12, Rain or Shine.

Back by popular demand we will be taking a trip to Edwards Apple Orchard East. We will be taking the church bus for those who need a ride. If riding the bus meet at church by 12:30. If you are driving meet us at the Apple Orchard at 1:00 pm. Cider and Doughnuts are on us!

Final Church Landscape Clean-up Saturday, October 21, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Mark your calendar, create an event, put it on your refrigerator magnet! This is your opportunity to join in the fun!

Ron Schaad's list of activities include but are not limited to; flower bed weeding, shrub pruning, and mulch spreading. Bring your favorite yard work tools. Remember your gloves and water/coffee. Oh, Ron reminded me, weed whacking has been added to the activity list. Bring your weed whacker if you can. See you Saturday, October 21. Questions? Contact Ron Schaad.

Calendar at a Glance October 1,-October 8, 2023

<p>Sunday, October, 1 Jim Ozee World Wide Communion 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 11:30 AM – Domestic Violence Walk</p> <p>Monday, October, 2 11:30 AM - Serious Soup</p>	<p>Tuesday, October, 3 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Bible Study 6:00 PM - DVT</p> <p>Wednesday, October, 4 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, October, 5 9:30 AM - Carillons 6:00 PM – Bellcantos 7:00 PM – Choir</p>	<p>Friday, October, 6 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Saturday, October, 7 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Sunday, October, 8 Kathy Lawes 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store 11:00 AM – Kid Choir</p>
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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