



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

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

October 22, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“When the Stars Begin to Fall”

TRAD.

INTROIT

“Amazing Grace”
Peanut Bells

AMAZING GRACE

WELCOME

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Becky Erbe

CALL TO WORSHIP♦

Leader: The goodness of the Lord passes before us;

All: The name of the Holy One is proclaimed for all to hear.

Leader: God is gracious and merciful to whomever God chooses;

All: Show us your glory, O Lord, we pray!

Jim Burrig

***HYMN #1 v 1- 4**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns across the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only
thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: God of mercy, we place our trust in tangible things— things we can see and touch— and question
whether you are really there.

**All: Forgive us, Holy One, when we fail to recognize that you are always nearby, patiently waiting
for us to recognize your presence and your glory.**

Leader: Help us when we lose our way, and forgive us when we forget to whom we truly belong.

**All: Lover of justice, open our eyes to see you; open our ears to hear you; open our hearts to love
you and open our hands to serve you...**

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Greg Makulec, Karen Hill

ANTHEM

“Will the Circle Be Unbroken ”
Church Street String Band

C. GABRIEL

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 33:12-23

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Show Me Your Glory”

Becky Erbe

***HYMN #12** vs 1-4

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might: thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

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. 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

“Keep on the Sunny Side of Life”
Church Street String Band

J. HOWARD ENTWISLE

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #838 vs. 1-4

“Standing on the Promises”

PROMISES

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring. Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

REFRAIN: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my savior; standing, standing—
I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. **REFRAIN**

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword, standing on the promises of God. **REFRAIN**

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the spirit’s call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. **REFRAIN**

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“I’ll Fly Away”
Church Street String Band
please remain seated for the postlude

A. Brumley

◆Written by Amy Loving, posted on *The Worship Closet*

◆◆*Ministry Matters*

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

Katy Paterson, van driver

Church Street String Band

Jim Burrigh, vocals, guitar, arranger, Marilyn Hartzog, vocals, guitar Doug Phillips, vocals, bass, Molly Doolittle flute, Bill Zartman, fiddle, Joyce Zartman, vocals, percussion, Valerie Blair, hammered dulcimer

*The Flowers on the Chancel are in Memory of Ray and Burdette Anderson given by their daughters
Susan Vetrone and Linda Oshita*

Prayer Requests

- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Carl Dickow who passed away, Tuesday, October 17. A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.**
- Continue prayers for, Judy Diehl, Lenore Lund, Sharon Ockerlander, Sherry Lynn McDonald, Bethany Stiltner, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, 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.

Enjoy Pumpkin Bars and Cider Today, Sunday, October 22, after Church in the Dining Room

Back by popular demand. Please join us for fellowship, Pumpkin Bars and Cider. Cannot wait to see you all!

New Member Class Coming Soon! Sunday, November 5, After Church

We will be offering a New Member class after church for those interested in joining Secondfirst Church. Lunch will be provided. New Member Sunday will be November 19, during worship. Please contact Pastor Becky or call Debbie in the office if you are interested.

Our 2023 final Neighborhood Soup Kitchen at the Jubilee Center will take place on Saturday, November 25. Yes, that is right after Thanksgiving! Hopefully we will all be refreshed after some good naps and energized for preparing and serving our neighbors. Marge will organize our day so let her know if you are able to help. Maybe you will be hosting out of town guests who would like to participate? Thanks and hope to see YOU there! Marge Maynard

‘What Jonah Learned About Abundance’

At first glance, the parable in Matthew 25 seems an odd choice for a reflection on stewardship. There is no offering of gifts here, no passing the plate, no mention of money at all. The goats in the parable of the last judgement personified those who aren’t particularly generous. The sheep were. Both the sheep and the goats learn, to their surprise, that those they helped - or ignore - were Jesus himself.

God’s call to care for His son by caring for others is not a zero-sum game; more for other people doesn’t mean less for me. There is plenty of God’s grace to go around. The sheep knew that. The goats did not. Even when people suffer the side effects of poverty God provides those who lift them out of it with educational and vocational opportunities. The abundance of God’s grace is that there is enough; no one needs to be left out.

We live today in a culture that is bent on scarcity; many have believed the narrative that there is not enough to go around, and so they should hang on tight to what they have. They’re convinced that if others get something good, that means there will be less available for them. Perhaps the greatest gift the church can give the world right now is to bear witness to God’s abundance. The parable of the last judgement – along with the rest of the Biblical witness – convinces us that there is enough – enough of God’s care, enough of God’s grace, enough of God’s love.

Boots for Haskell Party Saturday, November 11, 8:00 in the Sanctuary

The frost warnings have started already! Of course, this reminds me of BOOTS!! As has become our custom, SecondFirst Church will once again be providing boots for the Haskell School Students. These boots enable the students to go outside for recess year round, getting the necessary fresh air and exercise

that is so important for physical health, mental health, and improved ability to learn. Haskell Principal Loree says “Boot day is the happiest day of the year!” The kids' feet have been sized, the boots have been purchased and now the fun begins. Boots will be tagged for each individual student and sorted by classroom. At 10:00 am we will drive the church van full of boots to Haskell for distribution. Please let Karen Olson know if you can help on this day or you can call the church office or email Debbie (debbie.wise@secondfirst.org) to get on the list to help. Boots (like everything else) are more expensive this year. If you would like to help out with this project, please consider donating to the Mission Ministry Team. Donations can be made to the church with the memo “Boots for Haskell” and placed in the offering or mailed to the church. Contact Karen Olson with any questions. THANK YOU in advance for your support of this wonderful ministry.

Calendar at a Glance October 22,-October 29, 2023

<p>Sunday, Oct. 22 Peanuts String Band 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM –Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Cider and Pumpkin Bars 11:00 AM – Kid Choir 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store</p> <p>Monday, Oct. 23 11:30 AM – Serious Soup 6:30 PM – Worship/Music</p>	<p>Tuesday, Oct. 24 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Bible Study</p> <p>Wednesday, Oct. 25 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 26 9:30 AM – Carillons 5:30 PM – Governing Council 6:00 PM - ARC 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM - Choir</p>	<p>Friday, Oct. 27 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Saturday, Oct. 28 9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic</p> <p>Sunday, Oct. 29 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 3:00 PM – AGO Halloween</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

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Director of Music, Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair valerie.blair@secondfirst.org

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Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org

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