



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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

October 8, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Andante tranquillo” from Sonata No. 3

F. MENDELSSOHN

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP♦

Kris Harden

Leader: All heaven and earth proclaim the majesty of God's creative power!

All: Praise God for the amazing and awesome beauty.

Leader: God has given to us codes by which to live together in harmony and peace.

All: In these commandments, God has summed up the ways we must respect one another.

Leader: Rejoice in the goodness of God.

All: Praise God for God's complete and steadfast love for us.

***HYMN #331** vs 1- 4

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

NATIONAL HYMN

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast. Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay: thy word our law thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our every sure defense. Thy true religion in our hearts increase. Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way. Lead us from night to neverending day. Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: God gave us the covenant of the law to guide us and help us live with our neighbors in love.

All: When we break God's law, we leave our neighbors hurt and bruised.

Leader: God's law is a gift to us, showing us how to keep our part of the covenant.

All: Even through old pain and wounds, may we embrace the new life that Christ can bring.

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

“We Are”
Dorothy Paige-Turner vocalist

Y. BARNWELL

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-46

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Can We Just Skip This (at least for now)?”

Kathy Lawes

***HYMN #291** vs 1-4

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

J. MANLEY

REFRAIN: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters; you called to the deep; then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, “Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

REFRAIN

You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand; and you goaded your people with a law and a land. When they were confounded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. **REFRAIN**

You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill; then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still. And down in the city, you called once again when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **REFRAIN**

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes; from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.

REFRAIN

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

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

“My Tribute”

A. CROUCH

Dorothy Paige-Turner vocalist

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #322 vs. 1

“We Are One in Christ Jesus”

SOMOS UNO

REFRAIN: We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together. We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.

We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love, one single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all. **REFRAIN.**

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jesus Shall Reign”

ARR. V. LABENSKE

please remain seated for the postlude

◆written by Nancy C. Townley, posted on the *Ministry Matters* website.

◆◆written by Rev. Dr. Emily K. Bisset, Produced by Presbyterian World Service.

Dorothy Paige-Turner vocalist

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

John Maynard, van driver

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Lenore Lund, Bob Bates, Sharon Ockerlander, Sherry Lynn McDonald, Linda Roy, Bethany Stiltner, Marianne Marlow, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, 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.

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!

Stanley Campbell Honored at CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 15th at Riverfront Museum Park beginning 1:00 pm, with registration at Riverfront Museum Park.

The singing duo, Trinadora will entertain as the 2 p.m. step-off approaches. A quality tote bag will be given to the first 150 walkers. Stanley brought the CROP Hunger Walk to Rockford 38 years ago while executive director of Rockford Urban Ministries, a position from which he retired this summer. Over 300 people attended a dinner in our dining room and program to celebrate his achievements.

Donations support the Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition and Church World Service which originated the nationwide event shortly after World War II. Both organizations are dedicated to fighting hunger ‘one step at a time.’ Go to crophungerwalk.org/rockfordil or bring your donation to the walk itself. For more information call David Jones, 815-540-3703.

Pumpkin Bars and Cider 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.

Calendar at a Glance October 8,-October 15, 2023

<p>Sunday, Oct. 8 Kathy Lawes 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, Oct. 9 11:30 AM – Serious Soup 5:00 PM – Deacons-Fellowship</p>	<p>Tuesday, Oct. 10 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Bible Study 5:00 PM – Adult Ed</p> <p>Wednesday, Oct. 11 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 12 9:30 AM – Carillons 1:00 PM – Edwards Apple Orchard 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM - Choir</p>	<p>Friday, Oct. 13 Office Closed</p> <p>Saturday, Oct. 14 9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic</p> <p>Sunday, Oct. 15 CROP Walk 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 1:00 PM – CROP Walk</p>
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
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Ministers: All Members

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