



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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Order of Worship

November 12, 2023  
10:00 am

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

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

<b>PRELUDE</b>	“Blessed Assurance”	G. Near
<b>INTROIT</b>	“Joy is Like the Rain” Peanuts	Sister Miriam Therese
<b>WELCOME</b>		Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP◆**

Kris Harden

Leader: Let us open our minds to God's teaching;

**All: and tune our ear to God's word.**

Leader: Let us listen to the stories of the faith of our ancestors;

**All: and share our stories with our children.**

Leader: We put our trust in God;

**All: we worship the one who gives us life.**

**\*HYMN #687** vs 1-6

“Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past”

G. Near

Our God, our help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal Home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient in thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame, from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, be thou our Guard while life shall last, and our eternal Home!

**CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION◆◆**

## **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. Yet you are the eternal God who has always loved us. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to 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**

Bob Canfield

## **ANTHEM**

“An American Medley”  
Carillons

ARR. A. L. PAGE

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Joshua 24:1-3a; 14-25

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

“Memories”

Becky Erbe

### **\*HYMN #839 vs 1- 3**

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”

ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of this Spirit, washed in his blood.

**REFRAIN:** This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **REFRAIN**

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

## **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](http://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](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org).*

## SONG OF OFFERING

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”  
Carillons

ARR. M. L. THOMPSON

## \*DOXOLOGY #606

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #700 vs. 1-

“I’M Gonna Live So God Can Use Me ”

I’M GONNA LIVE

I’m gonna live so – God can use me – anywhere, Lord, anytime! I’m gonna live so – God can use me – anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I’m gonna work....

I’m gonna pray....

I’m gonna sing....

## \*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”  
*please remain seated for the postlude*

TRAD SPIRITUAL/ J. RANEY

*The Rose on the altar this morning is in honor of Richard George Stoll III Born to Annie Spindler Stoll and Ricky Stoll on November 3, 2023 Grandparents are John and Mary Spindler*

◆written by Rev. Kim Gilliland of the United Church of Canada

◆◆posted on Rev. Richard J. Fairchild/s *Kir-shalom* website.

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

John Maynard, van driver

## Prayer Requests

- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Lillian Smith who passed away Wednesday, November 8. Service in the Sanctuary 10:00 am Visitation, 11:00 Service**
- Continue prayers for **Joyce Pennow, Gabriel Phillip Wills**, Judy Diehl, Lenore Lund, Sharon Ockerlander, Bethany Stiltner, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Beckett Krieg, 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, Jeanne Page, Marsha Martin, Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Charles Rosche, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

### **Stewardship Sunday Brunch Next Sunday, November 19**

The Hospitality Team invites you to a special brunch in the dining room after church. Please join us for fellowship and great food.

**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

### **Serious Soup**

The number of people that we are serving continues to grow. We could use donations of jam or jelly to use when we make peanut butter sandwiches. We are always in need of soup donations. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and food donations this program continues to be a success.

### **Because of YOU our Church Changes lives.**

When we look to the future as a congregation we travel the road to mission clarity - an increasing awareness of and commitment to the role our church must play in God's kingdom, the one we ask for in the Lord's prayer. As this clarity grows so does the need for increased fund raising. Many of us give to make a difference in the world – and want to know what kind of impact our ministry is making.

Our Congregation has addressed this question. We have created the vision – “Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace.” Because of you our church changes lives.

It is this mission clarity that assures our next called pastor will have the visionary skills to shepherd us as visionary Christians. It is this mission clarity that excites and motivates us to offer more dollars assuring that skilled pastor is called.

Blessings on you, faithful one, as you help our church raise resources to continue energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace.

### **Poinsettia Sunday is December 17**

We will be taking Poinsettias orders now through Monday, December 4. The cost this year is \$14.50. You can send or drop off your check to the office. Let us know if you want the poinsettia in Memory or in Honor of your loved ones. There are order form envelopes in the friendship pads and on the usher table.

<p><b>Sunday, Nov. 12 Peanuts Carillons</b>  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  11:15 AM -Christian Ed</p> <p><b>Monday, Nov. 13</b>  11:30 AM – Serious Soup  5:00 PM – Deacons/Fellowship</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Nov. 14</b>  7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  9:00 AM – Thrift Shop  9:30 AM - Presbytery  12:00 PM – Bible Study  5:00 PM – Adult Ed  5:30 PM – Missions Team</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Nov. 15</b>  10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  6:00 PM - Trustees  6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p><b>Thursday, Nov. 16</b>  9:30 AM – Carillons  6:00 PM - Bellcantos  7:00 PM – Choir</p> <p><b>Friday, Nov. 17</b>  11:00 AM – Arlene Snap Service in  the Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Nov. 18</b>  10:00 Visitation Lillian Smith  11:00 Service in the Sanctuary</p> <p><b>Dedication Sunday, Nov. 19</b>  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  11:15 AM-New Members  11:15 AM – Stewardship Sunday  Brunch in the Dining Room</p>
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**Ministers: All Members**

**Moderator: Darlene Riddle** [moderator@secondfirst.org](mailto:moderator@secondfirst.org)

**Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe** [becky.erbe@secondfirst.org](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org)

**Children and Family Coordinator: Aubrey Barnett** [aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org](mailto:aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org)

**Youth Director: Rachel Huffman** [rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org](mailto:rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org)

**Director of Music, Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair** [valerie.blair@secondfirst.org](mailto:valerie.blair@secondfirst.org)

**Choir Director: Richard Stiltner** [rlstiltner@aol.com](mailto:rlstiltner@aol.com)

**Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg** [sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org](mailto:sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org)

**Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman** [joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org](mailto:joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org)

**Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Nancy Yoeckel** [nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org](mailto:nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org)

**Office Manager: Debbie Wise** [debbie.wise@secondfirst.org](mailto:debbie.wise@secondfirst.org)

**Graphic Designer: Mitzi Muntz** [mitzi.muntz@secondfirst.org](mailto:mitzi.muntz@secondfirst.org)

**Building Manager: Jeff Byrne** [jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org](mailto:jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org)

**318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL 61101 • 815.963.8431 • [www.secondfirst.org](http://www.secondfirst.org)**