



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

Dedication Sunday  
Order of Worship

November 19, 2023  
10:00 am

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

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

**PRELUDE**

“We Gather Together”

ARR. J. COTTER

**WELCOME**

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Darlene Riddle

Leader: Lift your eyes to God:

**All: in the highest heavens, we see your glory, Great Creator.**

Leader: Reach out your hands to Jesus:

**All: in the compassion of an enemy, we know your love, O Christ.**

Leader: Feel the breathe of the Spirit:

**All; in our sinews and in our souls, the Spirit whispers hope.**

Leader: Let us worship the God who reigns, by entering the depths of our humanity

**All: and setting the humble soaring on the wings of the Spirit for the sake of eternity.**

**\*HYMN #336** vs 1-3

“We Gather Together”

KREMSER

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Leader: God, you have given each of us many gifts,

**All: but sometimes we cannot recognize what gift we have to share, so we hide it under a bushel.**

Leader: God, you remind us that all gifts are needed,

**All: but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced that some gifts are more special than others.**

Leader: God, you call us to work, to live, to love together as parts of one body,

**All: but sometimes we decide that membership in the body is limited by our understandings.**

Leader: God, for the times we have ignored or mislabeled Your gifts, for those times we have cut another off from the body,

**All: We offer words of repentance; we ask for forgiveness and grace...**

*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**

Rachel Huffman

**ANTHEM**

“Use Me Lord”

S. Hughes/arr. P. Drennan

Sanctuary Choir, with Rachel Handlin, violin, Mike Beert, cello

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 25:14-30

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“If You’re Scratching your Head, You’re in Good Company ”

Becky Erbe

**\*HYMN #697** vs 1-6

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

HENDON

Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be, filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at the feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for 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 OFFERING AND STEWARDSHIP

Darlene Riddle

*God is unwavering in giving to us, so let us give to God. With gratitude for all we are and all we have done as a church and what we can do in the future we invite you to come forward with your pledge cards and offerings. If you have already pledged feel free to take an I've pledged card and drop it in the basket.*

## SONG OF OFFERING

"Soon and Very Soon"  
Sanctuary Choir

J. SCHRADER

## \*DOXOLOGY #606

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### HYMN #643 vs. 1-3

"Now Thank We All Our God "

NUN DANKET ALLE

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given: the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

## \*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

"Toccata in E minor"

J. PACHELBEL

*please remain seated for the postlude*

***Join us for Stewardship Brunch Today in the Dining Room***

*The Flowers on the the chancel are given by Jim Burrignt and family to the glory of God and in memory of Linda and Lucy Burrignt and other family members.*

◆ posted by Rev. Gord on his blog, *Worship Offerings*

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Rachel Handlin, violin, Mike Beert, cello

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

Tim Riddle, van driver

## Prayer Requests

- 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.

**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.

## 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.

## ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Join together at 11:15 am Sunday, December 10 for the Annual Budget Meeting. Budget packets will be available December 3. Zoom Link to follow.

### Calendar at a Glance November 19,-November 26, 2023

<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 Brunch in the Dining Room	<b>Tuesday, Nov. 21</b> 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop No Bible Study <b>Wednesday, Nov. 22</b> No Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers	<b>Friday, Nov. 24</b> Office Closed <b>Saturday, Nov. 25</b> 10:00 AM - Jubilee Soup Kitchen 3:00 PM - Cara Keller Memorial Service
<b>Monday, Nov. 20</b> 11:30 AM – Serious Soup	<b>Thursday, Nov. 23 Thanksgiving</b> Office Closed	<b>Sunday, Nov. 26 Norm Shirk</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

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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)

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