



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

Reign of Christ
Order of Worship

November 26, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE "Romanza" from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K.525 W. MOZART
Synchronia

WELCOME Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP♦ Phil Davidson

Leader: We are here together in the name of Christ Jesus,

All: in the Presence of an awesome, Holy Love.

Leader: A person without God is like a feather in a perpetual wind, blown all over the place without any control or choice in where to rest.

All: O come, let us return to the living God, Let us bow before the One who is our Maker.

***HYMN #321** vs 1-5 "The Church's One Foundation" AURELIA
The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore: till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy: Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦ Phil Davidson

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

We stock the food pantries, but brush aside those who hunger for friendship. We give our hand-me-downs away, but overlook those whose hopes have been stripped away. We glad-hand those just like us, but turn a deaf ear to our neighbors who 'talk funny.' Forgive us, Hope of the ages. You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home, so we may be drenched in the waters of your bottomless pool of forgiveness, watched over by your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior...

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

Leader ; God searches for the lost,

All: and finds us;

Leader: God invites the hungry to the table,

All: and feeds us;

Leader: God sends Jesus,

All: and frees us from death's prison;

Leader: God forgives all who fall,

All: and heals us with mercy and grace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*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

“Andante” *String Quartet in A minor*, Op.29
Synchronia

F. SCHUBERT

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:31-46

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“What God Takes Personally”

Norm Shirk

*HYMN #372 vs 1-5

“O For a World”

AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Becky Erbe

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

“Presto” from *Sonatina in F Major*.
Synchronia

G. TELEMANN

***DOXOLOGY #606**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN #268 vs. 1-4

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified: no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bends his burning eye and mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time; creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”
please remain seated for the postlude

ARR. J. COTTER

- ◆ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on his Home Page
- ◆◆written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his excellent *Lectionary Liturgies website*

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music
Richard Stiltner, choir director
Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video
Katy Paterson, van driver

Prayer Requests

- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Joyce Pennow, who passed away Sunday, November, 19.**
- Continue prayers for 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.

Join Us For The Festival of Lights, Friday, December 8, 6:00 PM

Come see the Festival of Lights at Sinnissippi Park. Ride the bus or follow in your car, than come back to our church for hot chocolate.

Our Christmas Bell Concert will be Saturday Afternoon, December 16, at 3:00 PM.

Invite your friends! All four bell choirs will present music, and there will even be some bell tree pieces. Don't miss a great opportunity to enjoy Christmas music played by the bells of SecondFirst Church. A free will offering will support the bell program.

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.

Special Christmas Offerings Sunday, December 24

Presbyterians and United Congregationalists have special Christmas offerings for expressing thanks to retired and active pastors and lay church workers. The PCUSA *Christmas Joy Offering* and the UCC *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross* offer assistance to families facing financial need, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance and other emergency needs. It provides a way to say 'thank you' for their years of dedication to our two faith traditions.

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.

Calendar at a Glance November 26,-December 3, 2023

Sunday, Nov. 26 Norm Shirk 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	Tuesday, Nov. 28 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - Bible Study Wednesday, Nov. 29 No Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers Thursday, Nov. 30 9:30 AM – Carillons 6:00 PM – Bellcantos 7:00 PM - Choir	Friday, Dec. 1 No Scheduled Activities Saturday, Dec. 2 10:00 AM - Love Rockford Sunday, Dec. 3 Communion Jim Ozee 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM –Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store
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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

Youth Director: Rachel Huffman rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org

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

Choir Director: Richard Stiltner rstiltner@aol.com

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

Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org

Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Nancy Yoeckel nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org

Office Manager: Debbie Wise debbie.wise@secondfirst.org

Graphic Designer: Mitzi Muntz mitzi.muntz@secondfirst.org

Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org

318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL 61101 • 815.963.8431 • www.secondfirst.org