



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

First Sunday of Advent
Order of Worship

December 1, 2024
10:00 am

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

Children in grades Pre-K through 5th may leave for Sunday School and will return to their parents/guardians for Communion.

PRELUDE

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

arr. J. Cotter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

***CALL TO WORSHIP-ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING♦**

Lindsey Lancaster and Family

Leader One: From deep in the past Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, say the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing for the sun, moon and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

All: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Leader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here- the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Candle of Hope is lit.

All: Let us prepare. Let us worship God.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

While we are waiting, come, while we are waiting come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

HYMN #88 vs. 1-3; 6

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VANI EMMANUEL

CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦

Becky Erbe

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Almighty God,

you warn us to read the signs for the coming of your glory— in the sun, the moon, the stars, the roaring of the seas and the waves, the distress among the nations. We have seen it all before. Nothing seems to change. Help us live with courage in this age of ambiguity where wars are fought for peace and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty. Forgive our lapse of focus, our sense that nothing ever really changes. Teach us to wait with patience, that we may be ready as our redeemer draws near.

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

*THE PEACE

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

EARLY WORD

ANTHEM

“Advent”, from *Seasonal Suite*
Madeline Archer, flute

A. Hommerding

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21: 25-36

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

LATER WORD

“Ordinary No More”

Jim Ozee

HYMN #82 vs. 1-2

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Becky Erbe

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Gracious God, we give you thanks for your creation.....we join our voices with those of all created beings in Heaven and on Earth singing

Organ: All:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you,
 God of pow - er and might; heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

©G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under One License. Net #A-714025.

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

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE WINE

SHARING THE FEAST

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are all guests at the table, and Jesus himself is our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of Holy Communion is open to all, including children, and not merely members of this congregation or denominations. This is a joyful feast for all the people of God. In order to extend hospitality to more of God's children, the cup is non-alcoholic and the bread is gluten free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Marge Maynard

*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

“Scherzo” from *Suite for Flute and Piano*
 Madeline Archer, flute

C-M Widor

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #105 vs. 1-5

“People, Look East”

BESANCON

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”
please remain seated for the postlude

P. Manz

◆ All Call to Worship and Candle lighten will be taken from the Discipleship Ministries, Advent 2024

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Hayley Gotzsche, choir director

Jim Burright, greeter

Phil and Shirley Davidson, Katy Paterson, Holly Hegge, Jennifer Archer, Nicholas Archer, communion servers

Wes Hegge, sound, video

Bob Langford, van driver

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Kim Craft, Rick Gallegos, Jean Reese, Bethany Stiltner, Joyce Pogue, John Livermore, Jeanne Page, Linda Miller, Jacob Crow (Adrian and Joshua Crow's nephew), Randy Beeman (Holly Beeman's brother), Brian and Patty Breuhaus and family (Lenore Lund and John DeWaters Son), Hayden Hallberg, Lenore Lund, Sharon Ockerlander, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Sally Baker, 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: Linda Roy, Betty Klingensmith, Shirley Anderson, Jeanne Page, Billye Vernam, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Charles Rosche.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: At SecondFirst Church we feel it is important for families to worship together. Do not feel that your child must be absolutely quiet and still. We can't overlook children's ability to worship even though they wiggle, giggle and drop hymnals. We are glad to have our children in worship! As Christ taught us, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me." (Matt. 18:5) For those who prefer, we do offer Sunday school for preschool through elementary school age children. Class meets on the third floor. We also offer childcare which is also on the third floor.

Rock River Valley Pantry needs --- Boxes of cereal, pasta, cans/jars of spaghetti sauce, and/or canned vegetables and fruits. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller.

Poinsettia Sunday is December 22nd... We will be taking Poinsettias orders now through Monday, December 9th. The cost this year is \$12.00. 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.

Serious Soup- Due to increasing numbers of hungry guests we are nearly out of soup crackers and ranch dressing. Donations of saltine crackers and ranch would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

On The Way To Bethlehem- Join us for this Advent Bible Study every Tuesday at noon via Zoom. This Advent study will take us on a journey through Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem as we discover and rediscover Jesus in new and profound ways. Contact Pastor Becky if you would like to join us. There will be light reading each week which Becky will provide for you, as well as the Zoom link.

Calendar at a Glance

December 1, 2024 – December 8, 2024

Sunday, December 1	Wednesday, December 4	Saturday, December 7
10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School	10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM- Martin Ringers	9:00 AM- Bridge Clinic
Monday, December 2	Thursday, December 5	Sunday, December 8
11:30 AM- Serious Soup 12:30 PM- Hospitality	9:30 AM- Carillons 7:00 PM- Choir	10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School
Tuesday, December 3	Friday, December 6	
7:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop 12:00 PM- Bible Study (zoom)	Office is closed	

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

Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Marge Maynard moderator@secondfirst.org

Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Children and Family Coordinator: Aubrey Barnett aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org

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

Choir Director: Hayley Gotsche choirdirector@secondfirst.org

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

Childcare: Tantalaya (TT) Ford

Church Receptionist: Jacqueline Bradford receptionist@secondfirst.org

Graphic Designer: Charles Fernandez graphicdesign@secondfirst.org

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

Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano

Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks