



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

I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another. John 13:34

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Order of Worship

10:00 am

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

*No matter where you are on life's journey, no matter who you are, where you are from,
whatever doubts and joys you bring, no matter who you love you are and always will be
welcome to worship here with SecondFirst Church!*

PRELUDE

O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go

A. Peace/arr. R. House

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Oshita

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Phil Davidson

Leader: Praise the Lord, all the earth!

**All: Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights.**

Leader: Praise the name of the Lord,
and God's glory shall be praised,

**All: by people near and people far,
by people present and people to come,
by the young and by those wise with age.**

Leader: Come, let us praise the Lord.
Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN #14 vs. 1-5**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

CALL TO TRANSFORMATION♦

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION♦

**Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges
and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of
creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through**

carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people everywhere.

One Minute of Silent Reflection

WORDS OF GRACE♦

Leader: Believe the good news:
Jesus loves us and heals us
and sets us free.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are made new.
Thanks be to God!**

***THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.
All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI**

EARLY WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 11: 1-18

Reader: The Word of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

If You Love Me
Sanctuary Choir

J. Raney

SECOND READING

John 13: 31-35

Martha Langford

Reader: The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

LATER WORD

Love Wins

***HYMN #317 vs. 1-4**

In Christ There is No East or West

MCKEE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please send prayer requests to Pastor Martha:
martha.langford@secondfirst.org

THE 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♦♦

Christian discipleship encourages us to give of our lives. During the offering, we share our financial gifts. There are many ways to give, which are listed in the announcements.

SONG OF OFFERING

Do Lord
Sanctuary Choir

M. Hogan/R. Dilworth

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)♦♦

Loving God, we give you thanks for the ministry to which you call us in the name of Jesus Christ. Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation. May they be a testament to your love for us as we share them in love for you; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #300 vs. 1-4

We Are One in the Spirit

ST. BRENDAN'S

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
please remain seated for the postlude

arr. J. Raney

♦ *Call to Worship. Year C, Vol 55.1.*

♦♦ *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Year C, Vol 1.*

Jan Novak, greeter

Wes Hegge, sound, video

Katy Paterson, van driver

The flowers on the chancel are given by Jan Novak in honor of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Continue prayers for **Keagan and Karson (Kristina Pando's niece and grandson)**, Sue Saunders, Katy Paterson, Nina Jawnyj (Aunt of Jess Lindblade), David Jones, Richard Cook, Rick Gallegos, Jean Reese, Joyce Pogue, John Livermore, Jeanne Page, Linda Miller, Jacob Crow (Adrian and Joshua Crow's nephew), Randy Beeman (Holly Beeman's brother), Hayden Hallberg, Lenore Lund, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Sally Baker, 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, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Charles Rosche.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me" (Matt. 18:5). We gladly welcome children in worship and feel it is important for families to worship together. Don't feel that your child must be absolutely quiet and still. Children worship through every wiggle, giggle, and hymnal drop.

For those who prefer, we offer Sunday school for preschool through elementary age children. Class begins at 10:20am on the third floor. Childcare is also available on the third floor.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

During worship, participants have opportunity to share financial gifts by placing them in the baskets at the front of each aisle. You may also mail your offering to the church office; give through the church website (secondfirst.org) using "DONATE" button, or use "Text to Give" - simply message 815.335.9911 with the message "Give \$_____" and follow the instructions.

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

INVITATION FOR WOMEN: 3RD PRESBYTERIAN'S WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION is hosting a salad luncheon on Wednesday June 14th at 12:00 noon. Andy Gannon will be the speaker, sharing his 4 decades in the local media. Third Pres welcomes you to join them for this event!

WORSHIP ARTS: Our communion table is now dressed with a weaving created by our children during the season of Lent. Together, they reflected on the path of Jesus Christ and added to the weaving week by week. As their journey grew deeper, the weaving grew longer, and now we can all enjoy the fruit of their labors.

Calendar at a Glance

May 18, 2025- May 25, 2025

<p><u>Sunday, May 18</u> 8:30 AM- Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p> <p><u>Monday, May 19</u> 11:30 AM- Serious Soup 6:30 PM- Worship/Music</p> <p><u>Tuesday, May 20</u> 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, May 21</u> 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM- Trustees</p> <p><u>Thursday, May 22</u> 5:30 AM- Governing Council 6:00 PM- Choir 7:30 PM- El Shaddai (Heritage Library)</p> <p><u>Friday, May 23</u> Office is closed</p>	<p><u>Saturday, May 24</u> No Scheduled Activities</p> <p><u>Sunday, May 25</u> 8:30 AM- Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p>
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Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Linda Oshita moderator@secondfirst.org

Senior Pastor: Martha Langford martha.langford@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 Gotzsche choirdirector@secondfirst.org

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

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

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Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano

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