



Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

Order of Worship for Digital Service

4:30 pm

PRELUDE

"Canon in D"

Pachelbel

Valerie Blair, piano, Nanette Felix, harp

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40

Rebecca White Newgren

Leader: God be with you,

All: and also with you.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Tim Carter

O come O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear

Refrain: Rejoice rejoice

Emmanuel shall come to thee o Israel

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-3 & 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Song*

"Joy to the World"

L. Mason

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness.

And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Children's Message

Becky Erbe

Carol

"Away in a Manger"

Anonymous 19th century

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

Second Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Abigail King

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered, Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Song

Wonderful Peace (Jul, Jul, Stälände Jul)

Gustaf Norquist

2020 SecondFirstual Choir

Third Reading

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

Christmas Message

Rebecca White Newgren

Song

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

Nora Maynard, Soprano
recorded December 22, 2019

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:15-20

Holly Hegge

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" intro by R. A. Hobby; Mendelssohn

Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Andy Newgren

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

There are three ways to give of yourself to the church: 1. 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. 2. Send your prayer requests to Pastor Becky: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org. 3. Make yourself known to this community or offer your time/talent by emailing Rev. Rebecca: rebecca@secondfirst.org.

Offertory/Response of Praise

"Cornerstone"

Shawn Kirchener

Sanctuary Choir and the SecondFirst Christmas Chamber Players
recorded Christmas Eve 2018

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Invitation to the Light

Carol

"Silent Night"

Gruber

Nanette Felix, harp

Blessing

Sending Song

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

trad. spiritual

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light
Refrain

Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

arr. L. Larson

*Lowell Mason, Isaac Watts, U.S. Army Chorus, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



*We want to say Thank You to those who have given the lovely poinsettias
that enhance the Sanctuary.*

Cynthia Johnson in honor of Hugh and Tottie Johnson from their children

Joyce Pogue in honor of loved ones

Tim and Darlene Riddle in honor of our parents

The White Newgren Family in celebration of Barbara Nichols and in memory of grandparents

*Deborah H. DeMars Ragsdale in memory of Dr. Richard M. Ragsdale, and in memory of
Harold and Beverlie L. DeMars*

Audrey and Linda Miller in memory of Edwin and Geneva Tice, & John and Florence Miller

Marilyn Hartzog in memory of Jane McAfee and Claude Vernam

John and Mary Spindler in memory of our parents

*The Archer Family in memory of Grandma and Grandpa Archer, Grandma and Grandpa Fisher and in memory of
Grandma and Grandpa Oshita, Grandma and Grandpa Anderson, Uncle Marsh and Auntie Dorothy*

Bill and Leah Baskin in honor of our parents

Anyone donating a poinsettia may pick them up Tuesday or Wednesday

Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
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Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Ann Stites moderator@secondfirst.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Rebecca White Newgren rebecca.whitenewgren@secondfirst.org

Associate Pastor, Member Care and Neighborhood Connections: Becky Erbe
becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Children and Family Coordinator Rachel Huffman rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org

Director of Theological Engagement: Andy Newgren andy.newgren@secondfirst.org

Director of Music: Paul Laprade paul.laprade@secondfirst.org

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

Director of Handbell Ministries: Julie Cook Ramirez julie.cookramirez@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

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

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

Childcare & Thrift Store Coordinator: Stephanie Cooper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Pair of Boots for Every Student at Haskell School

248 pairs of boots have been delivered to Haskell School! Due to the uncertainty of the school year and the possibility of the district becoming virtual only, the boot delivery was made much earlier than in prior years. I often receive questions about the boots and what the process is like to make this delivery happen.

Every Haskell student receives a boot that is sized correctly for them. Their teachers do the sizing and submit a class list for us to use. When I receive the lists, the fun begins.

First, I have to determine how many boots of each size are needed, whether they are for boys or girls and then begin the online ordering. This requires multiple sheets of paper and multiple screens to make sure I get the best boot price possible. (Actually, this process starts in February as I always try to take advantage of those clearance sales!). Once delivered, the boots are stored in my garage until boot sorting day. Karen Olson

A Stewardship Thank-you

Our 2020 Drive-By Stewardship Sunday completed a month of messages from members and mission partners. Your response has been renewed commitment of your time, talent and treasure to the congregation we call our home church.

Your Stewardship Committee thanks all who have pledged or who will do so in the coming weeks. As our community awakens from our long isolation, one from another, your decision to support our church mission assures another year of service in Jesus' precious name.

David Jones, Stewardship Chair

Feeding our Neighbors! By Marge Maynard

On Friday, January 22, under the sponsorship of the Missions Ministry Team, we will be hosting the Northern Illinois Food Bank truck! They will provide packages of foods to over 250 people in a drive-through setting. YOU can help! We need 10-15 volunteers from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm to make this event proceed smoothly. In our area, 1 in 11 children struggles with hunger; the need, especially in this time of COVID-19, is great. Please offer your time and energy and call the church office to let us know that YOU can help on this day. Questions? Please contact Pastor Becky. See you then!

Annual Budget and Foundation Meeting Announcement

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, February 14, 2021 for the Annual Budget and Foundation Meeting. Budget packets will be available February 7.

Stories of the Bible and the Stories of Our Lives Tuesdays at 12:00 noon

Led by Rev. Rebecca on ZOOM

The stories of the Bible are full of pain and joy, suffering and triumph. In some ways they mirror our own stories and in other ways they seem distant and far away. Using the Narrative Lectionary text for the coming Sunday, we will study the passage and use it to reflect on our own lives. All are welcome. No Bible experience necessary. (Call the office if you need help with Zoom). Register with Debbie in the office to receive the Zoom link. Questions? rebecca@secondfirst.org

Serious Soup Monday's 11:30 am -12:30 pm (No Serious Soup on December 28)

Serious Soup continues to faithfully feed our neighbors. A few tables are set up outside for guests to sit as they eat. Lunches are warm to go bag lunches. Contact: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

MEET OUR MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Christian Education Ministry Team promotes spiritual growth, development and community service through various educational activities: Bible studies, mission studies, movie reviews, guest lectures and more.

Contact: adultchristianed@secondfirst.org

Deaconesses Team provides hospitality, compassion, and caring to our church members and visitors by offering fellowship following Sunday worship, funeral services and special events.

Contact: deaconesses@secondfirst.org

Deacons Ministry Team seeks to identify and support the needs of the members and enrich the worship experience. *Contact: deacons@secondfirst.org*

Discernment and Vision Team works as a long-range planning team and as an Incubator Group for new ideas. DVT helps develop the idea relative to core values, supports a pilot project, and links it to existing groups and funding sources. *Contact: discernmentvision@secondfirst.org*

Family Christian Education Ministry Team works to energize the lives of our youth and their families through education, mentorship; fellowship and mission so that they may grow to love, know and worship God. We help our youth discover that God is present in our everyday lives. We strive to help them develop the wisdom that will help them develop their own belief system and choices in life.

Contact: christianed@secondfirst.org

Fellowship Ministry Team promotes fellowship among current and prospective church members through social events, special interest groups, service projects and other activities mostly revolving around breaking bread together.

Contact: fellowship@secondfirst.org

Membership Ministry Team reaches out to the community by sharing God's grace and welcoming all people to the life of SecondFirst Church.

Contact: membership@secondfirst.org

Mission Ministry Team strives to build a great city for all people through Christian activism that fosters personal transformation through Christ, community formation, social justice and cultural renewal to the city of Rockford and through us, to the greater world.

Contact: missions@secondfirst.org

Music Ministry Team provides assistance with every aspect of the church's music program, drawing us closer to God through a diverse variety of music. *Contact: music@secondfirst.org*

Trustee Ministry Team is responsible for overseeing the financial and business affairs of the church as well as managing the church's property. In addition, the Trustees handle scholarship and memorial monies. *Contact: trustees@secondfirst.org*

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the ministry team's chair.

*SecondFirst Church seeks to love, know and worship God by
welcoming all people, serving our neighbors and sharing God's grace.*

Prayer Requests

Please keep these members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. Additions to the prayer list are always welcome. Prayer requests will be listed for one month. If you would like to remain on longer, please notify the office.

- Continue prayers for Lenore Lund, Doris Rowald, Marsha Martin, Julie Cook Ramirez (broken arm), Diego Cevallos, Walt & Joyce Pennow, Charles Costello, Katy Paterson, Roman Campa, Ron Schaad, Barbara Smith (daughter of Alice Pampe), Terri Keller (daughter in law of Cara Keller), Jean Herro, Pastor Rebecca, Jackie Chamberlain, Cathy Toepfer (daughter of Jackie Chamberlain), Leah Baskin, and Philip & 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: Nancy Gallegos, Miriam Richardson, Jan Elliott, Willene Ziebell, Norman Fry, Darlene Miller, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Susan Dodillet, Charles Rosche, Arlene Snap, Lillian Smith, and Betty Haegg.