



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

First Sunday after Christmas  
Order of Worship

December 29, 2024  
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 here to worship at SecondFirst Church!*

**PRELUDE**

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME**

Marge Maynard

**CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Marge Maynard

Leader: There is no holy one like God above.

**All: There is no rock like our God.**

Leader: There is no hope like the hope of God's strength for us.

**All: There is no hope like our God.**

Leader: There is no promise like the promise of Christ's mercy and grace.

**All: There is no promise like our God.**

Leader: There is no love as great as the love God offers today and all days.

**All: There is no love like our God!**

**HYMN #140 vs. 1-4**

“Once in Royal David's City”

IRBY

**CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Kris Delmore

Leader: Our hearts are hard, O God –

**All: Soften them with your love.**

Leader: Our hands are clenched, O God –

**All: Open them with your grace.**

Leader: Our feet are planted too firmly, O God –

**All: Invite us to dance with you.**

Leader: Our lives are not our own, we know –

**All: Let us live and move and have our being in you, O God. Amen.**

*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.

### ANTHEM

“Lo, how a rose”

J. Brahms

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### LATER WORD

“They’ve Lost Jesus!”

Kris Delmore

### HYMN #145 vs. 1-3

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### 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

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](http://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](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org).*

### SONG OF OFFERING

“Noel with variations”

C. Balbastre

### \*DOXOLOGY

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### HYMN #132 vs. 1-3

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

### \*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

“Noel No. 10”

L-C. D’Aquin

*please remain seated for the postlude*

◆ *Ministry Matters*

◆◆ *Beth Merrill Neel- Hold Fast to What is Good*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Hayley Gotzsche, choir director

Katy Paterson, greeter

Wes Hegge, sound, video

Tim Riddle, van driver

### **Prayer Requests**

- Continue prayers for Mary Spindler, 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: Betty Klingensmith, Shirley Anderson, Jeanne Page, Marsha Martin, 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

**It is time to fill the 2025 Flower calendar for Worship.** For those of you who have traditionally provided exquisite and unique arrangements to grace the communion table, we are sincerely grateful and hope you will do so again. You will note a few dates have been reserved with special meaning for the donors. If I missed a special date of yours, please let me know. Please let Jacquie our Church Receptionist- [receptionist@secondfirst.org](mailto:receptionist@secondfirst.org) -know of the date you would like in 2025. Communion and special Enhancement dates have been included. For those who have not previously provided flowers, we invite you to consider selecting a date this year. Arrangements can be ordered through Pepper Creek which will deliver directly to church, although flowers can also be supplied by other florists or your own garden. The Deacons Fellowship Sanctuary Enhancement team strives to ensure the Sanctuary radiates with the beauty of floral offerings. We invite you to join us in that effort.

**Calendar at a Glance**  
**December 29, 2024 – January 5, 2024**

<b><u>Sunday, December 29</u></b> <b>Kris Delmore</b> 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School	<b><u>Wednesday, January 1</u></b> Office is Closed	<b><u>Saturday, January 4</u></b> 10:00 AM- Jubilee Kitchen
<b><u>Monday, December 30</u></b> No Scheduled Activities	<b><u>Thursday, January 2</u></b> Office is Closed	<b><u>Sunday, January 5</u></b> 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School
<b><u>Tuesday, December 31</u></b> No Scheduled Activities	<b><u>Friday, January 3</u></b> Office is closed	

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**Ministers:** All Members

**Moderator:** Marge Maynard [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)

**Music Director, Organist/Pianist:** Valerie Blair [valerie.blair@secondfirst.org](mailto:valerie.blair@secondfirst.org)

**Choir Director:** Hayley Gotzsche [choirdirector@secondfirst.org](mailto:choirdirector@secondfirst.org)

**Director, Peanut Bells:** Sarah Hallberg [sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org](mailto:sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org)

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**Housekeeper:** Maria Mandujano

**Gatekeepers:** Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

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