



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

Second Sunday of Advent  
Order of Worship

December 8, 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**

"Besançon"

arr. W. Wold

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marge Maynard

**CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING♦**

Josh and Adrian Crow and Family

Leader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**All: In a world driven by passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Leader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Candle of peace is lit.*

**All: Let us prepare. Let us worship God.**

**CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN:**

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

**HYMN #93 vs. 1-3**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

**CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦**

Phil Davidson

## PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Holy and loving God,  
we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.  
Hear our prayer, O Lord. 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.

## EARLY WORD

Aubrey Barnett

## ANTHEM

“Greensleeves/What Child Is This?”

arr. R. Litterst

Martin Ringers

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3: 1-6

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## LATER WORD

“Peace Out”

Becky Erbe

## HYMN #87 vs. 1-3

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

GENEVAN

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Phil Davidson

## 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

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman”

Trad., arr. J. Taylor/J Caulkins

Martin Ringers

## \*DOXOLOGY

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #97 vs. 1-3

“Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

## \*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Angels We Have Heard On High”  
Martin Ringers

arr. R. Litterst

*please remain seated for the postlude*

◆ from First Sunday of Advent Prayers and Litanies, posted on the Ministry Matters website.  
[www.ministrymatters.com/](http://www.ministrymatters.com/)

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Hayley Gotzsche, choir director

Jim and Diane Pippel, greeters

Wes Hegge, sound, video

John Maynard, van driver

## Prayer Requests

- Prayers for the family and friends of **Linda Roy**, she passed away December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Graveside service will be at a later date.
- 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: 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.

**Mindfulness and Meditation Christmas Service** is this Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please join us!

**Poinsettia Sunday is December 22<sup>nd</sup>**... 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.

**Please join us next Sunday, December 15th** for wassail and cookies in the Dining Room after worship service.

**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.

**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!

**Calendar at a Glance  
December 8, 2024 – December 15, 2024**

<p><b><u>Sunday, December 8</u></b> 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p> <p><b><u>Monday, December 9</u></b> 11:30 AM- Serious Soup 1:00 PM- Hospitality 5:30 PM- Deacons/Fellowship</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, December 10</u></b> 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop 12:00 PM- Bible Study (zoom)</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, December 11</u></b> 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 5:30 PM- Soup Supper (Old Narthex) 6:30 PM- Mindfulness and Meditation Christmas Service</p> <p><b><u>Thursday, December 12</u></b> 9:30 AM- Carillons 5:30 PM- DVT 6:00 PM- Bellcantos 7:00 PM- Choir</p> <p><b><u>Friday, December 13</u></b> Office is closed</p>	<p><b><u>Saturday, December 14</u></b> 9:00 AM- Bridge Clinic</p> <p><b><u>Sunday, December 15</u></b> 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p>
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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)  
**Director, Carillons:** Joyce Zartman [joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org](mailto:joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org)  
**Bookkeeper/Business Manager:** Nancy Yoeckel [nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org](mailto:nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org)  
**Childcare:** Tantalaya (TT) Ford  
**Church Receptionist:** Jacqueline Bradford [receptionist@secondfirst.org](mailto:receptionist@secondfirst.org)  
**Graphic Designer:** Charles Fernandez [graphicdesign@secondfirst.org](mailto:graphicdesign@secondfirst.org)  
**Building Manager:** Jeff Byrne [jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org](mailto:jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org)  
**Housekeeper:** Maria Mandujano  
**Gatekeepers:** Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

