

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

10:00 A.M.

*Our Mission: To be an inviting, caring faith community
connecting with Christ.*

Welcome, visitors! Our greeters have welcome bags to share with you, so please make sure they know you're visiting.

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship.

You can access that video even if you don't have a Facebook account – just type in

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityChurchOfRichmond/>

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#213

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Kazimier

One: On Palm Sunday so many years ago, the people saw Jesus and asked,

All: Who is this?

One: In worship, we respond. In worship, we declare:

All: Jesus is a miracle worker and healer.

One: Jesus is a teacher and preacher.

All: Jesus is our light in the darkness.

One: Jesus is our source of love.

All: Jesus is our path in the wilderness.

One: So may we lay down our hearts like they laid down their coats.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

One: Let us pray.

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:

We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.

All: We love the sound of a joyful parade.

One: We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

All: We love good news.

One: However, if we slow down and pay attention, we know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.

All: There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence.

One: You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire, and the whole world knew it.

All: Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took. Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage, and even we can do hard things. With hope we pray. Amen.

One: Family of faith,
Even when we gloss over the truth,
Even when our courage fails us,
Even when we doubt that we can do hard things,
God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us.
Hear and believe this truth:

**All: We are known.
We are loved.
We are forgiven.
Again and again and again. Amen.**

WORD FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM

“Hosanna, Hosanna”

Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to John 12:12-18

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

LITANY “Who is This?”

ALL: Who is this?

ONE: I heard he was a carpenter’s son.

TWO: I heard he was from Nazareth.

THREE: Can anything good come from Nazareth?

ALL: Who is this?

TWO: I heard he knew John the Baptist.

THREE: I heard he was related to John the Baptist.

ONE: I heard he can heal people.

TWO: Do you think he can heal me?

ALL: Who is this?

THREE: I heard he talks to gentiles.

ONE: I heard he talks to children!

TWO: And women!

ONE: And tax collectors!

ALL: Seriously, who is this?

TWO: I heard he’s the Son of David.

THREE: I heard he’s the Son of Man.

ONE: I heard he’s the one we’ve been waiting for.

TWO: I heard he was born of a Virgin.

THREE: I heard he was born in a stable.

ALL: Who is this?

TWO: Why is he riding a donkey?

ONE: How does he have so many followers?

THREE: Do you think Caesar knows that a man from Nazareth has been welcomed with such a large parade?

ALL: Who is this?

THREE: I don’t know who he is, but I’ve heard he’s gracious and kind.

ONE: I heard he fed five thousand.

TWO: I heard he survived the wilderness.

THREE: I heard he helped the blind man see.

ONE: Do you think he sees me?

TWO: I heard he walked on water! Is that even possible?

THREE: I heard he can save us.

ONE: I heard he can save all of us.

TWO: Who is this?

ALL: Who is this?

HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #123 (Red Hymnal)

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to John 18:33-38

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

The Gospel according to John 19:1-16a

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy.

Lord, make me more holy until we meet again.

Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

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CHURCH NEWS

CABINET:

Cabinet meets tomorrow at 7:00 on Zoom. If you have business the Cabinet needs to discuss, please talk with Pastor Hope or President Charles Kemp.

BIBLE STUDY: We meet on Zoom each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. No special knowledge is needed! This Tuesday, we'll be studying John 19:16-42.

THE FIRST ANNUAL (MAYBE) COMMUNITY CHURCH PLANT

SALE: is coming soon! Mike Kennedy is leading this new fundraising event. We'll need donations of plants to sell! Mike suggests you might want to donate perennials or small shrubs from your yard like hostas, coneflowers, daylilies, phlox, delphinium, ornamental grasses, yews, junipers, burning bush.... Mike or others from the church can help dig up and transport plants from your yard. We plan to hold this sale over several weekends in May. We're also brainstorming what else we can sell or offer at the same time to help draw more traffic, so if you have ideas, talk to Mike Kennedy or Pastor Hope. We're looking forward to this fun new celebration of God's great creation!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is an annual, inter-denominational offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Your gifts to this offering will help strengthen struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells. We will receive offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing throughout the month of April.

GIFT CARDS: Hi, all! I'd just like to make a public service announcement regarding gift card sales. I'm always happy to have you order/buy gift cards but with funds being a little low lately, I'm not keeping a lot of cards in stock. Also, if you've left an order in the gift card box, please let me know so that I can retrieve your order and get it placed.

Thanks for your ongoing support of the gift card program!
Penny

UPDATE FROM WIDER MISSIONS Versiti Blood Center reports that the 24 units of blood received at our last blood drive will reach 57 lives. We had six people donate for the first time and 11 units of type O blood (the 'universal donor') donated. Thank you for continuing to support this life-giving work!

Also, Wider Missions agreed to give \$200 to Compassion for Campers, a McHenry County organization that supports people living with homelessness in our area.

SUNDAY SCHOOL returns today! We'll expect to meet regularly for the rest of the springtime. If you can teach Sunday School one Sunday between now and Memorial Day, let Jean Valsa (jerichah21@yahoo.com) or Pastor Hope know.

CHOIR practices again this coming Thursday, following the Maundy Thursday worship.

GOOD FRIDAY We will not hold a Good Friday service this year. As we have in past years, we will share brief videos featuring the Scriptures telling the story of that day. Watch for them, and make a plan to pause in your day on Friday and reflection on Jesus' self-sacrificing love. Anyone who is seeking worship that day is encouraged to join with Grace Lutheran Church at 6000 Broadway Rd in Richmond at their 7PM service.

COMING WORSHIP EVENTS

Thursday, April 14th Maundy Thursday

We'll gather at 6PM for a simple soup and bread supper in the church basement. At 7PM, we'll remain in the church basement and transition to a time of worship. Everyone is welcome to attend dinner and worship or either part of the evening. A sign-up sheet is available today if you want to contribute to that meal and also to indicate if you plan to attend dinner.

Friday, April 15th Good Friday

We will not hold a Good Friday service. Anyone who is seeking worship that day is encouraged to join with Grace Lutheran Church at 6000 Broadway Rd in Richmond at their 7PM service.

Sunday, April 17th Easter Day

Gather together for the festival celebration of Easter Day at 10:00 worship!

BIBLE BACKGROUND

It's so important to remember that the story of Jesus' final days is tied to the celebration of Passover. Passover is a holiday that our Jewish neighbors still celebrate with joy. It takes us back to the time when the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. Moses had gone to Pharaoh and repeatedly told him to let God's people go; as you remember, Pharaoh repeatedly said no. God responded with plagues sent upon Egypt, finally escalating to the warning that the first-born son of every household would be killed if the Israelites weren't released. The Israelites could escape that fate, however, if they marked their door frames with the blood of a lamb. IF they did that, the angel of death would "pass over" their homes and leave their children safe. That horror finally convinced Pharaoh to let God's people go. So, the story of Passover reminds us that God's power is greater than the power of earthly kings and authorities, even Pharaoh, even the most powerful empire we can imagine – which in Jesus' day would have been the Roman empire, of course. Passover reminds us that God will hear the cries of the oppressed people, even when the oppression has gone on so long that we can't imagine it would ever end.

The Romans recognized the power in this story. They allowed the Jewish people to celebrate these days, but they were careful to keep a prominent Roman presence in places like Jerusalem. That's why Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the region, was in Jerusalem, when his normal home and center of operations was the city of Caesarea on the Mediterranean Sea.

Speaking of Pilate, don't let this Holy Week story fool you into thinking that he was weak leader who would be easily swayed by the Jewish leaders. He was known in his time as a particularly brutal leader. He also was the person who had appointed the High Priest, Caiaphas, to his position, so remember that when you read about the two of them passing Jesus back and forth for judgment.

PRAYERS for the Week of April 10, 2022

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, Please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!
We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

JOYS: Birthdays: Kim May (April 7), Brandi Pletcher (April 13)

PRAYERS FOR:

Friends of Pastor Hope, Levi & his parents
Dan Visitacion
The Youth With a Mission service teams
Louise Strahs
Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca
Deann Workmon
Patt Clymer, friend of the Molozaiys
Elise Livingston's friend, Jim Wright (Patty's husband)

Ongoing Prayers:

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother
Louise Strahs' niece, Amy Lenik

Prayer Partner

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Dawn Conley and Mike Kennedy.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ, New England Congregational Church in Aurora, IL, and their pastor, Brandon Perrine.

We also pray for our Mission Partner: Mission Partner is Feed My Starving Children:

As a Christian nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. You will hear us say this again and again: "We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed." We truly mean this. This means reaching the hard-to-reach people and places, the "least of these." They will be found, and they will be fed. With God's help we will work together with organizations and ministries across the globe to end hunger. Learn more at <https://www.fmssc.org>

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), Bob Krueger (Libertyville)

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orleans, 820
Tr. John M. Neale, 1854, alt.

ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
Melody by Melchior Teschner, 1615

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

1. Thou art the king of Is - ra - el, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing thee on high,
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore thee went;
4. To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat refrain after each stanza

Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed one.
And mor - tal men and all things Cre - a - ted make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore thee we pre - sent.
To thee, now high ex - alt - ed Our mel - o - dy we raise.
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious king!

This hymn may be treated antiphonally, the congregation singing the refrain, the choir the stanzas.

On a Hill Far Away

(The Old Rugged Cross)

Heb. 12:2; James 1:12

George Bennard, 1913; alt.

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its

em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the
 won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God calls me some-day to my

dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.
 suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ey - er I'll share.

Refrain
 So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

After serving as an officer in the Salvation Army, George Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the midst of his travels through the Midwest conducting revival services, he was inspired to write this hymn.

Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS Irr.
 George Bennard, 1913

LENT

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged
 cross, the
 cross, and ex - change it some-day for a crown.
 old rug - ged cross,