

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

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 are visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Carol Berndt,
guest musician

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Verse: **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You, I want to see You;**

Repeat Verse

Chorus: **To see You high and lifted up,
shining in the light of Your glory;
Pour out Your pow’r and love,
as we sing holy, holy, holy.**

Bridge: **Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy;
I want to see You. (repeat)**

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Kazimier

Leader: God has called us together for this time of worship.

God is listening to our thoughts and to our speaking.

People: God inclines an ear to us and hears us.

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

Leader: God’s promises to us are ancient and always new.

God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

**People: Holy God, the earth is full of your glory,
and so we worship you.
Our hearts are on fire to realize that Christ is with us,
and so we thank you.
Our fears have been calmed in the light of your
Resurrection,
and so we praise you.
Do not leave us, we pray.
Let us stay forever in the promise of your love,
through the grace of Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

#28

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE CHANCEL STEPS

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.

SONG RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 104:24-34

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, great and wide;

creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

There go the ships

and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;

when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works—

who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

The Acts of the Apostles 2:32-47

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’

“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

MESSAGE What are We Supposed to Do Now?

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN “At the Font We Start Our Journey” #308

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

Thank you, dear God, for the abundant life we enjoy, not simply in the things we own, but in relationships and chances for good.

May all that we give today be dedicated to your glory; may we share it in ways that meet human need and give praise to you. Amen.

*HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation”

#386

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “May How We Live Give Praise to You”

Verse 1: **Come let’s give praise O people of God.****Let’s count the ways we’ve been blessed by Love.****The Love that makes all****The Love that makes all things new again.**Chorus: **Holy One, what can we give back to you?****Holy One, may how we live give praise to you!****May how we live give praise to you!****May how we live give praise to you!**

Words and Music: Brian Sirchio

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credits: call and opening prayer and dedication, adp. from Lavon Baylor, in Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A, 1998, p. 92-93.

Music shared under CCLI #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

April 28

Liturgist	Cheryl Kazimier	Ron Obara
Video Director		
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	Conley-Kennedy	Kamans
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher	Gail Crutcher
Youth Sunday School	Elise Livingston	Elise Livingston

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Small Group Meeting, Thursday, 6:30pm
- Worship & Spiritual Growth, next Sunday, 11:15am

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive at www.raiseright.com/brands . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the upper hallway.

Gift Card App

We can now also support this fundraiser through the RaiseRight app with your smartphone. Gift cards for many places are available digitally for you to purchase and then use right away at the store you're shopping in or the restaurant you're eating at! Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly. Penny Kraft, Ronnie Obara, and Kathy Speaker are all very familiar with using the app and can help you get started if you're interested.

BASKETS FOR SPRING TEA NEEDED:

Dawn Conley is putting together baskets for the Silent Auction at this year's Spring Tea. She is looking for donations of a basket, money for a basket, or donations of a favorite place or item (i.e.: Cubs tickets, gift card to Bath & Body Shop, etc.) and she will make a basket for that. Even though it is time for spring cleaning, we ask that you not supply a basket with your old things, but rather newly purchased items.

As always, thank you for your giving! You can reach Dawn at 815-236-5982.

WIDER MISSION MINISTRY UPDATE: Last week's Blood Drive was a success with 25 units of blood collected; our goal was 22 units. Thank you to everyone who participated! Our next drives are scheduled for 8/13/24 and 12/10/24. Please mark your calendar!

COIN COUNTDOWN TO SUMMER!

It's the time again to turn in your change! Do you have coins you don't know how to get rid of? Do you have change in your car? Your couch? Your piggy banks?

We'll make this a challenge. Whoever wins, will be rewarded with a sweet treat. The sections are: The Choir, The West side, and The Broadway side. Whichever section you favor or "sit" is your team.

The coins are your points. Dollar bills BRING DOWN YOUR OPPONENT'S points. We will have canisters in front of each section to place your coins or bills. Say you have \$5.25 in change you place in your section's canister and you want to bring down another section's points; you put a \$5.00 BILL in their canister which brings down their total. If you don't have spare change, you can use bills to put in your opponents canisters. So, while this is a fun and competitive game, we can raise some funds.

We'll start today through the end of May!



FOR CONNECTION

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY! This week, we are completing our study of Christian identity together on Thursday evening at 6:30 here at the church.



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF RICHMOND
PLANT SALE**

Saturday, May 11, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Donations needed—hostas, coneflowers, daylilies,
and other perennials.

Help is also needed on the day of the sale!

Contact **Mike Kennedy** with questions
815-528-0127 or mjkdesigns5@yahoo.com

**Stop by for a great selection of perennials, vegetables and
potted planters!**

2024 1st Annual Spring Garden Tea



**Sunday, May 19, 1-4 PM
at Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva**

\$75 Ticket includes: Tea Luncheon
Silent Auctions
Harpist Annette Bjorling
Storyteller Lynn Rymarz

Ticket Sales begin on April 21
See **Karen Wootton** for more information
815-271-0056

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF April 21, 2024

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

JOYS:

Thanks for the wonderful sound of the men's choir!

Sympathies to the Kaman family on the loss of Theresa's grandmother, Shirley.

PRAYERS FOR:

Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly

Jan Revelle

Mike Karch

Mary Ann Keil

Pastor Hope's mother-in-law, Joan Molozaiy

Theresa Kamen's grandmother, Maria

Ode & Mary Ann Keil's brother-in-law, Robert Tobler

Debbie Franzone's daughter-in-law, Rebecca

Betty Waspi's relative, Nancy

The Anderson's family friend, Gail Ripka

Bill Haase

Ongoing Prayers:

Henry Eickelberg

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Rob Richardson's brother, Dale

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Debbie Franzone.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Congregational U.C.C. in St. Charles and their Pastor, the Rev. Joshua Kuipers.

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Betty Waspi

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Follitt S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

At the Font We Start Our Journey

308

Jeffery Rowthorn, 1992

Col. 3:15; Acts 10:36-43

1 At the font we start our jour - ney, in the Eas - ter
 2 At the pul - pit we are fash - ioned by the Eas - ter
 3 At the al - tar we are nour - ished with the Eas - ter
 4 At the door we are com - mis - sioned, now the Eas - ter

faith bap - tized; doubts and fears no long - er blind us,
 tale re - told in - to wit - nes - ses and proph - ets,
 gift of bread; in our break - ing it to piec - es
 vic - tory's won, to re - store a world di - vid - ed

by the light of Christ sur - prised. Al - le - lu - ia,
 by the power of Christ made bold. Al - le - lu - ia,
 see the love of Christ out - spread. Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the peace of Christ as one. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Hope held out and re - al - ized.
 al - le - lu - ia! Faith pro - claimed, yet still un - told.
 al - le - lu - ia! Life em - braced, yet free - ly shed.
 al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter's work must still be done.

This text was written for a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, where the author served as bishop suffragan. Born and educated in Britain, Rowthorn has held positions at Union Theological Seminary and Yale University Divinity School, and more recently was appointed bishop in charge of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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The Church's One Foundation

Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth;
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864