

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Easter Day

April 4, 2021 10:00 A.M.

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

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship. If you can't join promptly at 10:00, the video will be available later as well.

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

GATHERING SONG

“Were You There?”

Were you there when Christ rose up from the grave?

Were you there when Christ rose up from the grave?

O-oh sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble -

Were you there when Christ rose up from the grave?

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaizy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: This is the Good News – the grave is empty!

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the Good News – the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out!

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the Good News – once we were no people, but now we are God's people.

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the Good News – Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace, in which we are called to share.

All: Hallelujah!

OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Speaker

Meet us now, living Christ, as we greet this day with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us now, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. We need your healing. We need your word of greeting that welcomes us in spite of our doubts and faithlessness. Meet us now, living Christ. Amen.

Verse 1:

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Mortal tongues and angels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
 Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Sing glad heavens and earth reply: Al-le-lu-ia!**

Verse 2:

**Let the Victor's people sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
 Dying once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where your victory, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!**

Verse 3:

**Love's redeeming work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fought the fight, the battle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
 God has opened paradise, Al-le-lu-ia!**

Verse 4:

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Following our exalted head, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!**

#233, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Charles Wesley, 1739; Tune, 1708

WORD FOR ALL AGES with special guests

God is full of surprises! Take some time today and remember some of your favorite Easters past. Remember as well some of the times when God has surprised you with what came next in your life. Don't forget to say thank you to God for all the memories.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio; (C) 2013 sixstepsrecords/Sparrow Records

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
 Was blind, but now I see

My chains are gone, I've been set free
 My God, my Savior has ransomed me
 And like a flood His mercy reigns
 Unending love, Amazing grace

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed

The Lord has promised good to me
 His word my hope secures
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures

...

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Prophet Jeremiah 31:1-6 (NRSV)

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to them from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

The Gospel according to Luke 24:1-12 NRSV

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

MESSAGE Christ is Risen – What's the Back-up Plan?

HYMN "Thine is the Glory #139

Verse 1:

**Thine is the Glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou O'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.**

Verse 2:

**Lo! Jesus meets thee, Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.**

Verse 3:

**No more we doubt thee, Glorious Prince of Life!
Life is nought without thee; Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.**

#139, The Hymnal United Church of Christ; Lyrics, Tune: Judas Maccabeus w/refrain | Georg F Handel 1751

TIME OF 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.

Song Response

#765

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ is risen, alleluia, Christ is risen, alleluia,
Christ is risen, alleluia, Christ is risen, alleluia.**

OFFERING

Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! Though we rarely see each other in person these days, our church is still: providing worship; providing Sunday school for our church kids; connecting members with each other; supporting neighbors in need, locally and further away. We believe those things are parts of God's calling for us in this place and we can do them because of steady financial support.

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

Prayer of Dedication – You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church...

O God, As we celebrate the joy of Easter and the gifts of new life you offer us, we bring our gifts as well: our money, our time, our prayers, our plans. May you use them all to bring new life and resurrection joy to this world today. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

BLESSING FOR TODAY

In life, in death,
in life beyond death,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Over powers and principalities,
over all who determine, control,
govern or finance the affairs of humankind,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Of the poor, of the broken,
of the sinned against and the sinner,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Above the Church, beyond our most excellent theologies
and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

SONG "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah! Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah! Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayer of Dedication from *Spill the Beans*, issue 22, p. 76; Opening prayer, Pastoral prayer, Lavon Baylor, *Led by Love, Worship Resources for Year B*, p. 84-85. Other parts of this morning's liturgy from *Stages on the Way*, 2000, Wild Goose Publishing.

NEW NEWS

EASTER FLOWER PICK-UP If you ordered Easter flowers, you are strongly encouraged to come pick them up after worship today – Pastor Hope will be at the church until about 11:45. If you can't make it today, Brandi will be at the church in the early part of Monday and Pastor Hope will be in most of Tuesday. If you'd like us to give your sponsored flower to someone who would enjoy it, please let us know.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The church leaders would like to offer households an opportunity to attend church in-person! We will remain cautious and follow all CDC and State of Illinois guidelines. These include wearing a mask while attending, maintaining social distancing, and sitting with members of your household in the assigned pew(s). We also ask everyone to bring a copy of the bulletin or access it from their phone.

We are taking 'reservations' now. If you would like to sign up or having questions, please email Kelli Brossart at kellibrossart@gmail.com. Those interested will be added to the schedule on a first-come, first-served basis. You will receive an email reminder mid-week of the Sunday you are schedule to attend. The email will also include the attendance guidelines as a refresher!

We know this is not a replacement for “regular” church, but we hope this provides a chance to reconnect with our beautiful place of worship. We are heading into final stretches of this remote worship journey, and all of us look forward to the day we can fully return!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Good news! Our Endowment is willing and able to cover our sponsorship of Fathima, our sponsored child in Sri Lanka through World Vision.

More good news! Your special gifts can help us pay for the snow clearing we’ve had to do this winter! Even with our efforts to reduce the needed services, we’ve still had to pay nearly \$1900 already in 2021 for snow removal. (No, they didn’t plow the parking lot, but they did still shovel much of our sidewalk, which we felt was the right thing to do for our neighbors in town as well having safe access to the office entrance. And the shoveling is the expensive part of snow removal.) Your special gift of \$50 will make you a “snow sponsor”! If you’re able to give \$100, we’ll consider you a “snowman” (or woman) and maybe even arrange for a token of our appreciation. Thanks for any way you can help!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY continues Tuesday at 2PM open to everyone to read and discuss the Bible passage for the coming Sunday. Tell Pastor Hope if you want the Zoom link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY continues at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

OUR PART IN THE STORY: DEVOTIONS ON SUNDAY’S TEXT

Resurrection

Luke 24:1-12

Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday’s lesson and to your daily experiences.

Monday: Imitating Christ’s Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

❖ What does it mean to you to have the same mind as Christ?

Tuesday: Shining as Lights in the World

Philippians 2:12-18

❖ How can you “work out your own salvation?” How can you tell Jesus’ story with your whole life?

Wednesday: The New Life in Christ

Colossians 3:1-4

❖ In what way have you died and been raised with Christ?

Thursday: Gratitude for Mercy

1 Timothy 1:12-16

❖ How is your life an example to those who see you of the mercy you receive from Jesus?

Friday: Christ’s Sacrifice Once and For All

Hebrews 10:1-18

❖ How does Jesus’ death and resurrection fulfill God’s covenant with Israel?

Saturday: The Example of Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-13

❖ Why is it important to look to Jesus not only as Savior, but as a model of the life we are to live?

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Thanks to all who purchased flowers to beautify our Easter worship.

The Obara family, in memory of Stanley Liska, Delfina Izaguirre and Bernardo Izaguirre

The Richardsons, in memory of Carol's parents, Jean and William Seegert, and step-mother Darlene

Carol Sligting and Bill Haase, in memory of John Sligting and Peggy Haase

The Strahses, in memory of Bill and Kenny

The Valsas, in memory of Claire Osborn, and in memory of Jean's grandparents

The Leighningers, in memory of Julie's parents, Henry and Jean Wildberger; Eric's parents, Max and Mildred Leighninger; Eric's brother, Kirk Leighninger; Julie's nephew, John Henry Heath; and Julie's dear friend, Aletha Kowitz

Shirley Klein, in honor of her parents, James and Fay Eubank

The Kemps, to the Glory of God

Pastor Hope, with thanks for the good and faithful people of the Community Church of Richmond

PRAYERS FOR APRIL 4, 2021

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: Ode Keil (April 5)

CONCERNS

Those traveling

Those undergoing surgery

Leaders trying to make wise decisions

Those living with homelessness around us

Those struggling with loneliness and sadness

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers, staff, and administrators; school children and their parents, including college students

Those whose household relationships are strained

Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic

Healthcare workers, especially Cheryl Kazimier's niece and Rob Rummel's daughter-in-law

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), June Whitney (at home)