

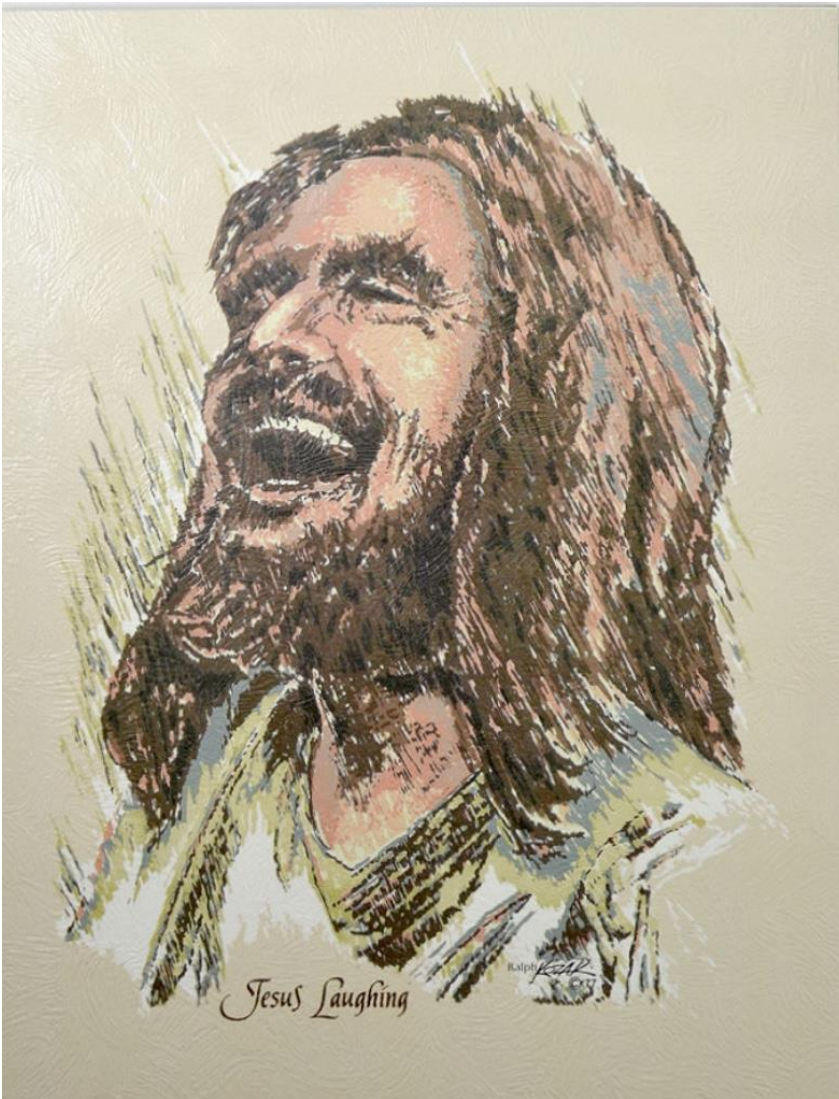
Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 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're visiting.

What is Holy Humor Sunday?

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it. This tradition has been revived in recent decades as "Holy Humor Sunday." Find more about the history of this celebration at <https://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaia

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG "Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)"

Verse 1: **Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet
Your love is a mystery, how you gently lift me
When I am surrounded, your love carries me**

Chorus: **Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing**

Verse 2: **Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me
Every time I see you, all your goodness shines through
I can feel this God song, rising up in me**

Chorus

Brenton Brown/Brian Doerksen, Vineyard Songs, c. 2000.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Speaker

One: Sing a new song!

All: A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth!

One: Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God,

All: who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.

One: Immerse your anxiety in the fountain of new birth.

All: We place our hopes on the table of wine and wheat.

One: For God has taken ordinary things

All: and made them extraordinary.

One: So we will rejoice,

All: and sing a new song!

OPENING PRAYER

One: O Great, Laughing God,
we come into your presence with joy, and longing to be surprised.

**All: Thank you for the gifts of laughter and delight.
These things give us a glimpse of your purpose for us
and for all creation.**

One: May we find that in giving in to laughter,
there is healing and hope and blessing.

**All: Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit
to renew our worship and our living. Amen.**

HYMN

“This is the Day”

#84

JOY BREAK!

THE CHANCEL STEPS

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are invited to remain with their families in worship, or parentes may accompany preschool children to the nursery.

SONG RESPONSE “Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah”

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

WORDS OF PRAISE from Psalm 100, according to The Message

One: On your feet now—applaud God!

Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.

**All: Know this: God is God, and God, God.
He made us; we didn't make him.
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.**

One: Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home, talking praise.
Thank him. Worship him.

**All: For God is sheer beauty,
all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.**

One: Let us worship God with joy!

JOY BREAK!

SCRIPTURE PRESENTATION

The Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

as retold by Joy Douglas Strome

The story as we find it in our common Bible translation, with the addition of midrash, an imaginative envisioning.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

SONG "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" (see insert)

WE CONFESS OUR FOOLISHNESS

One: Loving God,
You know better than we do
what important people we believe we are.

**All: Believing we have to be serious all the time,
we miss out on the joy of your creation.**

One: Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.

**All: Clinging to despair like it's our best friend,
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home.**

One: Forgive us, Heart of Joy,
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways
in which you work.

**All: Fill us with Easter's laughter;
fill us with your healing joy;
fill us with the love poured into us
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Quiet Moment

WE RECEIVE GOD'S SURPRISING GRACE

One: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that, through the forgiveness of all our sins, this joy is now given to us. Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.

We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.

All: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen!

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.

JOY BREAK!

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication

Source of all our joy,

Thank you for the gifts of love and life and laughter.

Bless what we return to you now.

**Help us share everything we have with this world in need,
and help us do it with joyful hearts. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion 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.

Remembering the Story

Sharing the Bread and Cup

This morning we're invited to share communion by approaching one of several serving stations around the sanctuary. If you're not comfortably able to move to one of those stations, simply remain in your seat and we'll come to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (we say together)

**Foolish, amazing God,
your belly laugh of Easter echoes through the world.
We've answered your invitation to join in the Joy Banquet.
May the joy we find in this meal together lift up our hearts.
May we carry your laughter into the world.
May we live out that foolishness called love wherever we go. Amen.**

*HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #347

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)"

Chorus: **Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing**

Today's liturgy was written by The Rev. Debi Turley, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a member of the Narrative Lectionary Facebook group
Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

Today's altar flowers were given by Bob and Judy Jooss in celebration of their 58th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

April 14

Liturgist

Kathy Speaker

George Zimmermann

Video Director

Nicki Carter

Greeter/Usher

Dick Strahs

Fellowship Hosts

Tedders

Sunday School

N/A

Gail Crutcher

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK:

Cabinet Meeting, Monday, 6:30pm, in the lounge
Choir practice, Wednesday, 7pm
Small Group Meeting, Thursday, 6:30pm
Men's Breakfast, Saturday, 8am

CHURCH NEWS

FOR CONNECTION

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY! Join us for a four-week Fellowship Study Opportunity as we explore our Christian identity.

Our identity affects where we live, how and where we travel; it drives what we buy and what work we can do. Identity is important. Think about why we're so devastated when it's stolen! Knowing our spiritual identity is even more important! In this four-session, small group study, we'll explore our own hearts, minds, and the Word to learn more about the power that is in our own grace-created identities.

Meets on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the church lounge through April 25. We'll wrap up after about an hour. Bring a favorite Bible if you have one or use one of ours. There's a signup sheet in the lounge to help with our planning. Let Katie know if you plan to attend katherine.anderson22@gmail.com

FOR SERVICE

BLOOD DRIVE:

Our spring blood drive is coming up, and our goal is 22 blood products. Please save the date: Tuesday, April 16, 3:30-7:30. See Carol Richardson with any questions.

COMING SOON!

- Men's Choir Sunday will be next week, April 14. All men of the church are invited to come together to make a joyful sound. Arrive at church by 9:20 to rehearse a familiar song to share in worship!
- The Plant Sale is coming up on Saturday, May 11th. Can you donate plants? Or can you help on the day of the sale? See Mike Kennedy for more information.
- The 11th Annual Spring Tea is on Sunday, May 19th in Lake Geneva. Your ticket includes the Tea Luncheon, Silent Auction, Harpist Annette Bjorling and Storyteller Lynn Rymarz. Tickets go on sale April 21. See Karen Wootton with questions.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF April 7, 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: Birthdays: Kim May (4/7).

Thankful for the joy of Easter, and the peace that forgiveness brings.

SYMPATHIES to Kathy Speaker and family on the loss of her cousin, Mark Deno.

SYMPATHIES also to Trish and Troy Woselowsky on the loss of Troy's aunt.

PRAYERS FOR:

Theresa Kamen's grandmother's health

Charles Kemp's niece's safe arrival

Families affected by Maryland bridge collapse

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

Sheryl Vezina's brother, Bart Parrish

Theresa Kaman's uncle

Bill Haase

Ongoing Prayers:

Henry Eickelberg

Barb Haase

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Rob Richardson's brother, Dale

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Gail and Jeni Crutcher.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John U.C.C. in Palatine and their Pastor, the Rev. Sandy Kolar.

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

This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

E_b *B^b7*

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

E_b

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

A^b *E_b* *A^b*

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

E_b *E_b/B^b B^b7 E_b*

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.
Les Garrett, 1967

(Lyrics by Pastor Debi Turley, sung to the tune Hark the Herald
Angels Sing)

1. **Jesus Christ is risen today**
Joy and laughter came our way!
No more sadness, guilt or shame,
God's love showers us like rain!
Joyful, all you nations rise!
Join the triumph in the skies!
All the angels laugh with mirth
Joy rings out o'er all the earth.
"Look!" The people laugh and say
"Jesus Christ is risen today!"

2. **Satan shrinks and hides his head**
All his plans as good as dead.
Just like dust he's blown away,
"Get outta town, or you will pay."
Life has won, now death can flee,
All creation now is free,
Free to live and laugh and love,
Free to worship God above.
"Look!" The people laugh and say
"Jesus Christ is risen today!"

3. **Go and tell what God has done**
Darkness shattered by the Son!
Life now starts, creation cries,
All our hearts are warm and wise.
Run and dance, rejoice and sing,
Gather 'round to praise the King.
With the angels up above,
We are bearers of God's love.
"Look!" The people laugh and say
"Jesus Christ is risen today!"

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
 Jamaican folk song
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975