

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:00 P.M.

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

Tune into Facebook 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/>

ABOUT THE TRADITION OF THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP
*Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. It takes
its name from the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of
worshippers as a sign of human sin and mortality, a tradition
that goes back at least to the tenth century.*

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are invited—

**All: Into the story,
Into this place,
Into this hour of worship.**

One: We are invited—

**All: Into reflection,
Into community,
Into our own spiritual journeys.**

One: We are invited—

**All: The broken and bruised,
The hopeful, the new,
The faithful, the doubting,
The wondering, the waiting.**

One: We are invited—

All: Because God so loved.

One: So listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole
self.

All: All are invited here.

HYMN

“In All our Living”

#499

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Holy God, We know that you are near,
for you are always here, gathered among us,
just a breath away.

And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble
over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: So often we talk to you like a stranger, praying prayers
of small talk about the weather and surface level
concerns.

We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners,
out of sight, out of mind.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: And so often we try to think our way to you, as if we
could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great
unknown.

We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to
feel our way to you.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one
hour a Sunday, missing your constant invitation into
the holiness all around us. Guide us again.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: We are here, God. We want to begin again.

All: Bring our hearts into the room. Amen.

One: Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a
deeper faith journey, unsure of what comes next, or
running your way through that threshold, you are
claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

All: Again and again, we are forgiven.

Again and again, we are loved.

Again and again, we are invited in.

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

John 10:1-18

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up

again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

REFLECTION

HYMN

“Just As I Am”

#207

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross.

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.

HYMN

“What Wondrous Love is This”

#223

BENEDICTION

Opening prayer, by *The Rev. Iona MacLean, First Presbyterian Church, Pictou, Nova Scotia*, at <http://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Worship10-11.pdf>

All other printed liturgy, by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

Just as I Am

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*Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.**John 6:37; Eph. 2:14*

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1849

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)
Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993