

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
August 1, 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.  
**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 MUSIC

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

SONG OF PRAISE “These Hands” Kim May and Penny Kraft

Chorus: **These hands were made to praise You,  
These lips were made to lift You up.  
I give to You my life in worship.  
These feet were made to serve You,  
This tongue to sing of Your great love.  
I give to You my life in worship.**

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

George Zimmermann

One: God reveals life to us in the Risen Christ  
and in the fullness of the fields.

Gather once more to testify to life revealed.

**All: We testify to God's grace.  
We will share God's story and ours.**

One: Early believers sought to be one in heart and mind.  
We are also called to find common ground in Christ.

**All: We testify to God's grace.  
We will share God's story and ours.**

One: Peace be with you as we celebrate  
the fullness of God's life in us.  
Christ is with us now.

**All: We testify to God's grace.  
We will share God's story and ours.**

One: Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are immortal, invisible, and the only true wisdom in our lives. We praise your example of unending love and unhurried glory. We give thanks that you will not end, even while we know our days are limited.

In this time, we choose to gather, to sing, to hear your story again, so that in the days to come, we are confident and caring as we share your story out loud. Bless our worship, we pray. Amen.

### WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 66:8-17 CEB

All you nations, bless our God!

Let the sound of God's praise be heard!

God preserved us among the living, and didn't let our feet slip a bit.

But you, God, have tested us— you've refined us like silver,

trapped us in a net, laid burdens on our backs,

let other people run right over our heads—

we've been through fire and water.

But you brought us out to freedom!

So I'll enter your house with burnt offerings.

I'll keep the promises I made to you,

the ones my lips uttered,

the ones my mouth spoke when I was in deep trouble....

Come close and listen, all you who honor God;

I will tell you what God has done for me:

My mouth cried out to him with praise on my tongue.

HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

v. 1 & 3

Verse 1:

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,**

**In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,**

**Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of**

**Days,**

**Almighty, victorious, your great name we**

**praise.**

Verse 3:

**Your life is life giving to both great and small;**

**In all life you're living, the true life of all;**

**We blossom and flourish as leaves and as**

**flowers,**

**Then wither and perish but naught dims your**

**powers.**

SCRIPTURE READING

The First Letter of John 1:1-4

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

MESSAGE

Beloved, Be Rooted

Here are some questions that will come up in today's message; see what answers come to mind:

Who is somebody who loved, or loves, you really well?

How did/do you know that they love you? What makes it evident?

What's one of your earliest memories that connects to God?

Can you think of a time when you were hurting and God or the church eased that hurt?

Can you think of a time when your church, or someone you share faith with, showed behavior that reminded you of Christ?

What would you say about your relationship with God at this point in your life?

HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

v. 1, 3, & 4

Verse 1:

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above  
Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

*Song continues on next page*

Verse 3:       **I love to tell the story; it's pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more  
wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never  
heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy  
word.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 4:       **I love to tell the story, for those who know it  
best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like  
the rest.  
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new  
song  
Will be the old, old story that I have loved so  
long.**

Repeat Refrain

#522, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Katherine Hankey, 1866; Tune: William G Fischer, 1869

### **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION    (we pray together)

**Merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and  
cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer and 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.**

Words of Remembering

Now as they were eating together, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink of it, all of you; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration – *Place your hands over the bread and cup you have before you as we pray:*

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to each table that's been prepared for you today. Bless each bite and each sip that we share in your name today. Bless each of us in our eating and drinking; wherever we are, let our eyes be opened, so that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, in our enemies, and in all for whom Christ lived and died. Amen.

We Share the Elements – Partake of what is before you as you share your table with Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks  
that you have refreshed us at your table  
by granting us the presence of Christ.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

If you are at church for worship, you may leave your offerings in the plastic the buckets near where you picked up your bulletin.

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**How can we say thanks, O God, for the one who laid down his life in witness to your love for all people?**

**We know that many people have not yet experienced that love. Use what we offer to bring healing and peace to others not of this community.**

**Draw us together as one flock in the care of the one shepherd, Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song            “We are One in the Spirit”

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.**

**And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love.**

**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Tune and lyrics: Peter Scholtes, 1966.

## POSTLUDE

Call, adapted from L. Baylor Liturgy for the Second Sunday of Easter in Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B, 1996. Opening prayer, HEAM, inspired by “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise.” Prayer of Dedication, Baylor, p. 93.

### NEW NEWS

**BACKPACK BLESSING** will be August 15, during Outdoor Worship. Children headed back to school are encouraged to bring their backpack to worship for a blessing before they start the new year. Grown-up bags – briefcases, purses, and other ‘bags of daily use’ are also welcome!

## COMING EVENTS

**BEEF ROAST** is coming soon – August 14! This event will be drive-thru like last year, though we'll also have some picnic tables outside available for seating.

Pre-ordering is available NOW thru 12<sup>th</sup> on the website or by calling or texting 815-388-6353. You are strongly encouraged to pre-order. (Remember that we RAN OUT of beef last year.) Prices for this year are:

Meal: \$15

Meal with 8 oz Pickles: \$18

Bulk Beef: \$10 a lb

We need a few new willing helpers this year – ranging from outdoor jobs of directing traffic, taking and handing out orders to people in their cars, and cashiers, to indoor jobs of filling food containers and getting everything packed up. Tell Kathy Speaker if you'd like to help! ([kspeaker77@gmail.com](mailto:kspeaker77@gmail.com) or 815-678-4320)

You can help publicize the event by inviting friends and by sharing the event on Facebook. (It's on the top of our church Facebook page.)

**INDOOR WORSHIP** The Church Cabinet has set August 22 as our expected date to return to indoor worship together! We'll be pulling everything together to continue sharing worship online while making our space open to all again. In the meantime, we will continue with outdoor/online worship weekly. We do ask anyone who is unvaccinated or particularly vulnerable to continue to wear your mask as you mingle before and after worship. Thank you!

**As we get ready** to regather inside, we need to give the building some TLC, including tidying and cleaning spaces like the sanctuary pews, children's areas, kitchen areas, and entryways. Let Pastor Hope know when you're willing to help and she'll get our efforts coordinated.

**GIFT CARDS** Penny Kraft regularly orders gift cards on our behalf, and the church gets a percentage of the cost of those cards. There is a HUGE variety of gift cards available, from specialty stores to gas stations and grocery stores. Jewel, Walmart, Meijer, Marathon Gas, SO MANY RESTAURANTS, department stores, etc. Find the full list of retailers at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/shopwithscrip-retailers> . Contact Penny with your order any time by calling/texting her at 815-236- 6172 or emailing her at [mriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mriapk@gmail.com).

## Prayers for the Week of August 1, 2021

Please send prayer requests to BOTH Pastor Hope AND office manager, Brandi Pletcher ([pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org) and [office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)). *We leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

### JOYS

**Birthdays:** Connie Runnfeldt (August 1), Alex Molozaiy (August 6), Mike Anderson and William Kazimier (August 8)

### CONCERNS

A visitation for Eric Leighninger will be held here at The Community Church this Friday, August 6, from 4-6PM. The memorial to celebrate his life will be held Saturday at 3PM at Northfield Community Church, 400 Wagner Rd, Northfield, IL.

### Prayers For:

Family of Cristo Garza, friend and former student of Rob Rummel  
Family of Rob Rummel's friend, Greg Benyak, as he enters hospice care  
Ode Keil's nephew, Brett Scharringhausen  
Ina Obara's father,  
Olympians and all those working to support the Tokyo Olympics  
The people of Afghanistan, Cuba, and Haiti  
All those affected by severe weather of great rain, extreme heat, fires, and floods, in this country and around the world  
Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family  
Bob Krueger  
Deann Workmon

### Ongoing Prayers:

Julie Leighninger  
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), Bob Krueger