

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2023 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 Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Hope Molozaia
Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG “Everlasting God”

Verse: **Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.**

Bridge: **Our God, You reign forever. Our hope, our strong
Deliv'rer.**

Chorus: **You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God,
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in
need;
You lift us up on wings like eagles.**

Repeat

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CALL TO WORSHIP Elise Livingston

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name,
and tell of God's deeds among the people.

**People: Sing to the Holy One, sing praises to our God!
Remember and tell of God's wonderful works.**

Leader: We will remember all the gifts God has given us.

People: We will remember all the times God has comforted us,

Leader: and the ways God has challenged us to grow,

People: and the times God's love has overflowed in us.

Leader: We will remember all that God has done for us,

People: and tell of God's wonderful works among the people.

BLESSING OUR TIME APART AND OUR REUNION

Elise Livingston

One: Twelve weeks ago, we released Pastor Hope into the renewing time of sabbatical, committed to continue our work together in her absence, and welcomed a new relationship with Pastor Ruth. Now we mark the end of that time.

People: We give thanks for the gifts Pastor Ruth shared with us; may God continue to bless her as she goes forward in her life and ministry.

Pastor Ruth: I give thanks for the gifts you have shared with me; may God continue to bless this church as you go forward in your life and ministry.

People: In Pastor Hope's absence, we trusted the Holy Spirit to watch between us while we were apart. We continued to learn and grow and play. We nurtured our bonds with God and with each other.

Pastor Hope: In my time away, I trusted the Holy Spirit to watch between us. I took time to learn and grow and rest. I renewed relationships with God and with the church and world outside of this place.

People: Now we joyfully receive Pastor Hope back into her role as pastor, preacher, and teacher. We will share the fruits of our growth this summer, and we commit ourselves to the next season of our ministry together.

Pastor Hope: Now I rejoice to return to serve this community. I will share the fruits of my growth this summer as I resume my duties of leadership and care in our ministry together.

ALL: Thanks be to God, who is always our guide and guardian. Amen.

HYMN "God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian"#355 verses 1 & 4

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 “Wherever Love Is”

**Wherever love is, God is there too
God is in me, ‘cause I love you
Wherever love is, God is there too
God is wherever love is.**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

Paul’s Letter to the Romans 12:1-5

Elise Livingston

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

Psalm 30

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”

By your favor, O LORD,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:

“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!”
You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

MESSAGE You Have Drawn Me Up

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” #539

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

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)

**God, when we remember all the gifts you’ve given us,
all the times you’ve comforted and challenged us,
all the ways you love us, we can only say thanks.
May our offerings reflect our thanks,
and may we use them to tell the world of your wonderful works. Amen.**

HYMN “They Did Not Build in Vain” #373

FOOD DRIVE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Dear Member and Friends,

Our local Richmond/Spring Grove Community Food Pantry is in great need of donations. During the summer months donations drop, but the need is still there. The pantry is seeking donations of canned goods, boxed food, snack foods, personal items, paper goods, cleaning supplies and/or a monetary donation. Our church is hosting a food drive from Sunday, August 13 through Sunday, August 27. We have prepared brown bags* with an attached list of suggested items from the food pantry. Please take a bag today to fill if you would like to help. Just drop the bag back here at church over the next two weeks (please call the church to see when someone will be in the office). If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Community Church of Richmond and mark in the memo line Food Pantry Food Drive. It takes courage and strength to ask for help when you need it. Let us show those in need in our community we are there to support them!

-Karen Wootton and the Mission Committee

*A big thank you to Angelo Food Store, Richmond for the donation of brown bags!



FEED THE HUNGRY

WIDER CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES

- Fox Valley Association Meeting, September 9, Saturday, 8:30am to 2:00 pm, in-person at Little Home Church by the Wayside UCC in Wayne, IL. Our church can send two voting delegates in addition to Pastor Hope.
- IL Conference UCC Women's Retreat, September 29-30, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center near Princeton, IL. Pastor Hope has loved attending for many years now and would love to have others from church join her.
- IL Conference UCC Annual Gathering, November 3-4, Friday & Saturday, Yorkville Congregational UCC featuring The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, newly elected General Minister and President of the UCC.

Talk to Pastor Hope if you're interested in any of these events.

CATCH UP with Pastor Hope!

Drop by during this week's visiting hour, Wednesday, 11am to noon, and let Pastor Hope catch up with you. Outside the office entrance to the church (weather permitting).



PRAYERS for the WEEK OF AUGUST 27, 2023

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: Jonathan Kaman (9/1), Carol Richardson (9/2)

Thanks for:

- Ryder turning 4 years old
- Henry doing better
- School starting
- George & Elise's 44th Anniversary

PRAYERS FOR:

Southern California

Maui

Henry Eickelberg

Cheryl Heber's friends' mother's death

Barb Howe's nephew

Lydia Blanton's father in law

John Kaman's family (Uncle's passing)

Aidan Zimmermann's friend's death (Shawn)

George Zimmermann's friend, Rich

Ongoing Prayers:

Betty Waspi

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Douglas and Brenda Kimball.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Community Congregational U.C.C. in Villa Park.

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

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

Gen. 2:7; John 10:11-16

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1987

1 God the Spir - it, guide and guard - ian, wind - sped
 2 Christ our Sav - ior, sov - ereign, shep - herd, Word made
 3 Great Cre - a - tor, life - be - stow - er, truth be -
 4 Tri - une God, mys - te - rious be - ing, un - di -

flame and hov - ering dove, Breath of life and voice of
 flesh, love cru - ci - fied, Teach - er, heal - er, suf - fering
 yond all thought's re - call, Fount of wis - dom, womb of
 vid - ed and di - verse, Deep - er than our minds can

proph - ets, sign of bless - ing, power of love: Give to
 ser - vant, friend of sin - ners, foe of pride: In your
 mer - cy, giv - ing and for - giv - ing all: As you
 fath - om, great - er than our creeds re - hearse: Help us

those who lead your peo - ple fresh a - noint - ing
 tend - ing may all pas - tors* learn and live a
 know our strength and weak - ness, so may those the
 in our var - ied call - ings your full im - age

*Where appropriate, "ministers" may be substituted for "pastors."

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COMMISSIONING, ORDINATION, AND INSTALLATION

of your grace; Send them forth as bold a -
 shep - herd's care; Grant them cour - age and com -
 church ex - alts O - ver - see its life stead -
 to pro - claim, That our min - is - tries u -

pos - tles to your church in ev - ery place.
 pas - sion shown through word and deed and prayer.
 fast - ly yet not o - ver - look its faults.
 nit - ing may give glo - ry to your name.

A gift from Carl P. Daw, Jr., to Episcopal colleague Jeffery Rowthorn for his consecration as bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Connecticut, this text calls on the Triune God to aid and bless the person being ordained in his or her ministry.

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Alternate tune: JEFFERSON

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

They Did Not Build in Vain

*Acts 2:1-4, 43-47; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 12:1-2**Alan Luff, 1989; alt.*

1 They did not build in vain who found - ed here a church
 2 Those who have loved this place, a cloud of wit - nes - ses,
 3 In ev - ery place our world is storm and tem - pest tossed,
 4 Make this the meet - ing place where doubt finds grounds of faith,

as wit - ness to God's love a - mid a world of pain;
 sur - round and urge us on as we now run our race;
 the flames of fear and hate are e - vil's flags un - furled;
 where hurt finds heal - ing love, our pen - i - tence your grace;

They built up - on the rock that is the ris - en Christ,
 Though the ho - ri - zon's bend con - ceals the way a - head,
 Yet still the Spir - it's power in wind and fire of love
 Where God in Trin - i - ty is bridge from death to life,

the one foun - da - tion laid, that stands each earth - ly shock.
 the foot - prints on the road show Christ waits at the end.
 pours gifts up - on the church for ser - vice in this hour.
 from sin to ho - li - ness, time to e - ter - ni - ty.

Alan Luff, a graduate of the Royal College of Music, has served the Anglican Church as parish priest, precentor of Westminster Abbey, and canon of Birmingham Cathedral. He is also known as the author of Welsh Hymns and Their Tunes (1990).

*Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
 Traditional Yigdal melody
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770*