

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

10:00 A.M.

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

## **THIS SERVICE IS ONLINE ONLY!**

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**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

One: We could offer welcome,

**All: but we often choose judgment.**

One: We could choose action,

**All: but we often choose silence.**

One: We could choose advocacy,

**All: but we often choose comfort.**

One: We could choose truth,

**All: but we often choose ignorance.**

One: We could choose God,

**All: but we often choose ourselves.**

One: Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly.

**All: Open our hearts to choose you, to choose community, to choose love.**

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**

One: Family of faith, no matter how we choose, we cannot lose God's love. It is undeserved, overwhelming, ever-present, and always with us. So may we accept God's grace, and use it as fuel for better days.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**All: No matter how many times we walk away, God always welcomes us home. We are loved.**

**We are forgiven. We are invited. Thanks be to God, amen.**

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Led by Charles Kemp

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

REFLECTIONS

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Led by Robert Richardson

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral 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

“Joy to the World”

Led by Elise Livingston and George Zimmermann

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued 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.

Prayer of Dedication

Write on our hearts, Lord, your way of living; may it dwell within our hearts so we would be your servants in all that we are, in all that we do, in all that we give, in all that we offer. Bless now these offerings given with generosity and grace that they might be used in the service of your kingdom. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

BLESSING

Today's liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org. All of today's music is in the public domain.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**BIBLE STUDY** is off this week.

**Pastor Hope** is out of town until Thursday.

**FINANCIAL PLEDGES and end of year donations** can be gotten to Ruth Zehr by Dec 30. You can reach Ruth at [rkzher@aol.com](mailto:rkzher@aol.com) or 847-971-7589.

**GIVE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND** of the United Church of Christ provides annuity supplements, health insurance supplements, emergency grants, and Christmas gift checks to individuals who have long served the church, such as pastors, widows of pastors, and pastors in transition between churches. You can contribute through the end of the year; just mark "UCC Christmas Fund" on your giving envelope or check memo line.

**PRAYERS for the WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, Please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope ([pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org)) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)). THANKS!  
*We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Debbie Franzone  
The Blanton family  
Deann Workmon  
Linda Swenson  
Sheryl Vezina  
Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly DeSalvo  
Bob Howe  
Marti Swanson's friend, Mary

**Ongoing Prayers:**

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family  
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),  
Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi