

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

**Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday of Advent,
The Sunday of Peace**

December 5, 2021 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.

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

PRELUDE Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Hope Molozaui

GATHERING SONG "Love Has Come" Kim May

Verse:

With one voice the angels sing songs that make creation ring.
Prophets hear and call us to live in spirit and in truth

Chorus:

Word of God enthroned, dwell in us forevermore;
Love has come to show the way.
Halleluiah, peace be with us,
Love has come to show the way.

Verse:

God Creator, Elohim, voice of thunder, spirit, wind:
Breathe on me your very life; grace will make the shadows bright.

Chorus

One: If life was a home, then we would pray—

All: May love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

One: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

All: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

One: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING PRAYER

God, who speaks a good news language— we admit, listening has never been our greatest gift.

We are easily distracted, our minds run a million miles a minute. we doubt your faith in us, and take the easy way out when it comes to hope.

So today we bow our heads and ask for help. Settle our hearts.

Quiet our minds. Steady our breathing.

Help us to rest in you.

Help us to listen for your good news. Gratefully we pray, amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Heber Family

HYMN

“Come, O Long-expected Jesus”

#122

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 42:1-6a

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

My tears have been my food
day and night,

while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng,

and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

SONG RESPONSE “Drawing Nearer” Christopher Grundy
Even in the midst of all of this,
Trouble on the news, no peace within,
Still there is a light in the distance
Drawing nearer
Drawing nearer.

So Open up our eyes to see your light,
Open up our arms, they’re clenched so tightly,
Come in like a thief and steal
Our hearts
Like a baby,
Like a baby.
Even in the midst of all of this.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Prayer continues.

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 Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Please hold the bread and the juice until all are served so we all may partake together.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (we say together)

**O God, we thank you for uniting us in the body of Christ
and for this meal of joy and hope.**

**Grant that in the days ahead, our lips,
which have sung your praises, may speak the truth;
our eyes, which have seen your love,
may look with compassion on the needs of the world;
our hands, which have held this bread and cup,
may be active in your service.
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” #345

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

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “When the Lord’s in You”

**When the Lord's in you, and the Lord's in me,
there's a bridge between our spirits,
wherever we may be.**

Til we meet again

let us hold the Mystery of the Lord in you and me.

(Bryan Sirchio Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI)

*POSTLUDE

We are still not serving fellowship snacks or coffee, but you are welcome to visit together in the sanctuary after worship.

Call to Worship, Candle Lighting, and Opening Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

CHURCH NEWS

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY meets this Wednesday evening at 7:00 on Zoom. Watch your email for the link from Pastor Hope.

BIBLE STUDY is back! But will not meet this week. We meet on Zoom each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. No special knowledge is needed! See you December 13th.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY: Wider Missions has accepted a family of 5 for our Christmas Family from the Richmond-Spring Grove Community Food Pantry. This family has 4 children: Boy, age 10, who is autistic; Girl, age 9; Girl, age 6, who's also autistic, and a Boy, age 2, with a single mom. You can sign up for Community Church of Richmond Christmas Family Gifts at <https://signup.com/go/BysogbR>

Please wrap your gift and tag it with the following information. Gift #, Family Y, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age. No bows please, they just fall off. If you purchase a gift card, please put it in an envelope labeled with this information: Gift #, Family Y, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age. Place it in the Box marked Mom. All gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 12th.

We're using SignUp.com to organize. Here's how it works:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp : <https://signup.com/go/BysogbR>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! You will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

FINANCIAL PLEDGES

Many of you have received a letter and pledge card to tell us your expected giving to the church for 2022. Please return those pledge cards to the church as soon as you are able. This is also a great time of year to consider making a 'bonus' gift of gratitude and support to the church if you find yourself in a position to do so. Our continued thanks extends to all of you for all the ways you support the financial life of the church.

THE CHURCH CABINET has set January 23, 2022, as the date for the annual meeting of the church. Further details will be coming in January. Ministry chairpersons: Remember that you'll need to submit your written reports for 2021 by mid-January.

DECEMBER EVENTS

- The choir from Richmond Burton High School will be performing a winter concert here at the church on Wednesday, December 8, 10 AM.
- Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 12, during worship
- Christmas Appeal Family: Presents need to be brought, wrapped and labelled, to the church by December 12.
- Live Community Church Advent Calendar, watch for videos daily on Facebook and Youtube
- Advent Party – December 19, after worship. Everyone is invited to gather in the church basement to enjoy some Christmas cookies, crafting, a little carol singing, and some warm fellowship. (Have cookies you want to share? Tell Pastor Hope or Jean Valsa.)
- Christmas Eve Worship: In-person and online, 8:00 PM, Dec. 24th.
- The Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ is a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. This fund 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.

May you engage with these opportunities to the fullest as we prepare to greet the Holy One among us.

PRAYERS for the Week of December 5, 2021

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

JOYS: Birthdays: Mary Ann Keil (Dec 3), DeAnn Workman (Dec 10)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly DeSalvo
Bob Howe
Marti Swanson's friend, Mary
The Crutchers' son, Benjamin
Refugees on the Belarus border
Cheryl Heber's family friend, Margaret
Deann Workmon
Bill Haase's daughter, Barb Haase
Marti Swanson's long-time friend, Judy Coomes Wenzel
Sheryl Vezina

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

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTT GART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)
from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Isa. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 6:13-15

From the Liturgy of St. James, 4th century
Transl. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; alt.

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 Mon - arch great, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At Christ's feet the six - winged ser - aphs, cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth Christ stood, Lord of all, in hu - man ves - ture—
 on the way, As the Light of light de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in the hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood— Christ will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, That the powers of
 as with cease-less voice they cry, Al - le - lu - ia,

This Greek hymn comes from the Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem. It has been paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie, a priest of the Church of England. The French folk melody first appeared with these words in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 French carol melody, 17th century
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906