



The Courageous Choice, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Silk painting with digital drawing and collage, created for A Sanctified Art Generation to Generation Advent Devotional 2022

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

**Our Church at Worship on The Fourth Sunday of  
Advent  
The Sunday of Love**

**December 18, 2022                      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.

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Community Church, what makes you feel loved?

GATHERING SONG "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Verse: **O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Chorus: **Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Ron Obara

One: Let us remember the nature of the God we gather to worship.

**All: We worship a God who links all of creation together, who makes us all to belong to each other.**

One: A God who invites us to love with abandon, to seek the good in one another, and to trust that we all belong to God.

**All: We know this life of connection is easier said than done,**

One: Which is why we gather, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded:

**All: We see God in each other.**

One: Let us pray:

God of all, we are a mixed bag

of distracted and forlorn, eager and anxious.

We hope that you might move through the obstacle course we build up around our hearts—

made out of questions and defenses—

and douse us in good news.

**All: For at the end of the day,  
all we want is to know that we are not alone,  
that you are always near.**

One: So knock on our door,  
Sweet talk the guard dog we place in front of our  
vulnerable hearts, and come right in.

**All: Make yourself at home.  
Pull us close and tell us your story of  
unbelievable good news.  
We are listening.  
We are grateful. Amen.**

HYMN "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

#122

#### THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church  
at this time. Afterwards, they are invited to remain in worship with  
their families.*

#### SONG RESPONSE

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

#### WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Luke 1:46-55, Common English Bible

Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,

from one generation to the next, who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud  
inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty-handed.  
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
remembering his mercy,  
just as he promised to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

### The Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

### THE MESSAGE IN SONG

Featuring favorite pieces from cantatas throughout the years. Please see the cantata booklet to follow along.

### 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.**

## THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued financial support of our friends and members!

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

#154

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” chorus

**Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere**

**Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Candle lighting, Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Music shared under CCLI License No. 1908882.

## CHURCH NEWS

### FOR LEARNING

**BIBLE STUDY** will be Tuesday on Zoom at 1:30. We read and discuss the sermon Scripture for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join in and no special knowledge is needed. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. This Tuesday we'll be discussing Matthew 2.

### FOR SERVICE

**WE NEED TWO NEW CHURCH OFFICERS:** As we get ready for the new year, the Church Cabinet is seeking a church member to serve as Vice President for 2023 (and then probably as President in 2024) and also seeking a new Clerk of the Cabinet. Outgoing VP Elise Livingston can talk to you about that position (as well as the many other church members who have served in that way) and Mary Ann Keil can fill you in on the Clerk's position.

**LAST CHANCE FOR GIFT CARDS:** Today is the last day to order gift cards through our ongoing gift card fundraiser. Penny will place her final order of 2022 tomorrow and cards will be delivered later this week, in time for Christmas. Whether you're doing last minute shopping with them or giving them as gifts, your orders today can help us close out the year big on this fundraiser.

You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive for each at [www.raiseright.com/brands](http://www.raiseright.com/brands)

Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mriapk@gmail.com) or leave an order form and payment with her today. Thank you!

### **FOR CONNECTION:**

#### Coming Worship Opportunities

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 PM

All are invited to a Longest Night service at Calvary U.C.C. in Twin Lakes, WI. Pastor Cheri Tuccy welcomes you to a service for those in need of hope and healing. Calvary U.C.C. is located at 1511 Wilmot Road in Twin Lakes.

Saturday, December 24, 8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship for All with Candles and Carols and the Christ-child. Though masks are not required, they are encouraged for this service in light of the many illnesses prevalent in our area.

Sunday, December 25, 9:00 AM

Everyone is invited to worship with our neighbors at First Congregational UCC in Genoa City at 9:00 AM. The church is at 624 Park St. in Genoa City and their pastor, The Rev. Pat Handley will be leading worship. There will be NO worship service held at our church building that day.

Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM

Ring in the new year with a joyful praise and worship. It's PAJAMA Sunday, so come in your new holiday PJs, your favorite winter sweatsuit, or whatever is most comfortable for you on the first morning of the new year. Our neighbors from Genoa City are invited to join us as we share communion, receive star words, and pray for God's blessing on the year that is to come.



**Thanks to all who donated poinsettias for our  
Worship**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Bob & Judy Jooss            | Dedicated to the Community Church of Richmond        |
| Yvonne Kemp                 | Dedicated in Memory of Lucille Lyght and Thelma Kemp |
| Carol Sligting & Bill Haase | Dedicated in Memory of John Sligting and Peggy Haase |
| Louise & Dick Strahs        | Dedicated in Memory of Bill and Kenny                |
| Marti Swanson               | Dedicated in Memory of Rick, Gary, Ken and Mark      |
| Karen Wootton               | Dedicated to the Glory of God                        |

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

Liturgist                                      Ron Obara  
Video Director  
Greeter/Usher                                Dick Strahs  
Fellowship Hosts                            The Karches

**Dec. 25 –NO SERVICE**

**Jan. 1**

Liturgist  
Video Director  
Greeter/Usher

**Jan. 8**

Liturgist                                      Jean Valsa  
Video Director  
Greeter/Usher  
Fellowship Hosts  
Sunday School

Are you willing to help with any of these jobs? Let Pastor Hope know.

**COVID UPDATES:** Masks are currently optional at worship and church gatherings. Stay home if you're feeling sick and maintain a healthy distance from other households during worship. We make decisions about our community's standards based on Jesus' command to love each other and protect the most vulnerable among us.



Betty Waspi sends Christmas Greetings to the congregation and wishes you all a Happy New Year!



## **PRAYERS for the Week of December 18, 2022**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, Please send them to Pastor Hope ([pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org)) AND our office email, ([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.*

**JOYS:** Birthdays: Ralph Runnfeldt (Dec. 20); Dawn Conley (Dec. 24); Cheryl Heber (Dec. 24).

### **THANKS FOR:**

The Christmas Pageant  
The ability to work from home

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Susie McCrae, Jim Speaker's aunt  
Lydia Blanton  
Yvonne's health and safe travel  
Visitors & Extended Family  
Sandy Hook families and survivors  
Those awaiting test results  
The people of Ukraine

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca  
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin  
Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family  
Melissa Jones's mother, Ella Watts  
Louise Strahs' niece, Amy Lenik

**Sympathies** for Yvonne Kemp and her family on the passing of her brother, Willis Lyght, Jr.

**Our Congregational Prayer Partner** this week is Marti Swanson.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ: First Congregational U.C.C. in West Dundee and their Pastor, the Rev. Aaron James.

### **Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing**

**Facilities:** Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi (at home). Bob's new address is: 1101 Pembridge Drive, #3307, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

**CABINET UPDATES:** Cabinet met last Monday evening on Zoom.  
- In November we received an average of \$1360/week in offering – thank you! Our budgeted expenses are about \$3200/week. We were helped in November with over \$900 we gave in that month to the Coin Challenge and the \$3600 raised at Trivia Night.  
- As of the Cabinet meeting, we had received 29 pledges for 2023 for a total pledged amount just over \$102,000. Thank you to all who have pledged for the coming year. If you are still intending to submit a pledge, remember to contact Judy Jooss before Dec 31.

### **IN THE NEW YEAR**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is to be held on Sunday, January 22. At this meeting, we will approve a budget for 2023 and elect the officers of the church as well share general discussion about the life of the church. It is currently the intention of the Cabinet for their to be a potluck breakfast before the meeting on that day to be followed by a combined worship/meeting time. We will wait until January to further solidify that plan.

\*All ministry reports should be submitted by their chairperson by Wednesday, January 11, to the office, preferably by email to [office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org).

We'll need Sunday school teachers. Jean and Gail have taught a lot this fall. You don't need to have children of Sunday school age to be a teacher. We ask teachers to take a month at a time, which is usually 3 or 4 Sunday, and we provide an easy-to-use curriculum. Watch for a sign-up sheet soon.

We'll need fellowship snack hosts. We've been holding fellowship time after worship twice a month, but if circumstances allow, in the new year, we'll move back to having it every Sunday – if we get enough hosts. Sign-up sheet is available in the lounge today.

# **Christmas Cantata**

## **Greatest Hits**



**A Message in Music**

**Performed by the Christmas Choir of  
The Community Church of Richmond U.C.C.  
December 18, 2022**

## **Come, Emmanuel, Come**

A glimmer of hope shines in the darkness,  
When will the dawning come?  
A whisper of peace echoing silently,  
When will we hear the song?  
Hope of the earth, promise of ages, light for the world to see.  
Spirit of wisdom, power, and love come set the captive free!  
Come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel, come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel,  
Come, Emmanuel come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring!  
Come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come.

Voices cry out, lost in the darkness, searching for truth and right,  
Longing for peace, watching and waiting for Love's redeeming  
light.  
Prophets foretold the promise unfolding; angels in heaven sing.  
Mountains bow down and valleys rise up to welcome the coming  
King.  
Come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come.  
Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come.

### **Narrator**

#### **Child of Hope**

The stars shone bright, the angels sang,  
Across the earth the promise rang.  
All darkness banished with His birth,  
God had sent His Son to earth.  
A Child of hope, a Child of joy, God's gift to all, this little boy.  
How still the night of Jesus' birth!  
How great the gift of peace on earth.

**Narrator**

## **The Angels and Shepherds**

And there were shepherds out in the field,  
Keeping watch o'er their flocks by night.  
And lo, the angel came upon them,  
God's glory shone 'round them. They were sore afraid.  
The angel said, "Fear not, for behold,  
Now I bring you good tidings which shall be to all people.  
For onto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior,  
Christ the Lord.  
And you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
Lying in a manger."  
And suddenly there was with the angel,  
A heavenly host, praising God and saying:

## **Glory to God in the Highest Heaven**

*Chorus*

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
Glory to God, now a Child is born.  
Glory to God in the highest heaven  
Glory to God, He is Christ the Lord.  
*Repeat*

Don't be afraid, for I come to you,  
Coming to bring you amazing news.  
In Bethlehem, now a Child is born,  
A savior, He is Christ the Lord.  
Glory to God, we're singin',  
*Chorus*

Shepherds, now to the manger go.  
Find the Child there in swaddling clothes.  
When you see Him, you'll lift your voice  
And praise the Lord with joyful noise!  
Glory to God, we're singin',  
*Chorus*

Sing, "Glory to God." Sing, "Glory to God."  
Sing, "Glory to God, He is Christ the Lord."

## **Narrator**

### **The Wonder of the Star**

Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to the perfect light.  
Wise men followed, followed the Star of Bethlehem.  
Wise men followed, followed the Christmas Star.

(Repeat)

Wise men took a journey in search of the newborn Child.  
They searched until they found Him with Mary, His mother mild.  
Wise men followed, followed the Star of Bethlehem.  
Wise men followed, followed the Christmas Star.

(Repeat)

They brought with them their treasures to give to the King of kings.  
They bowed and worshiped Jesus, the one who salvation brings.  
Wise men followed, followed the Star of Bethlehem.  
Wise men followed, followed the Christmas Star.

(Repeat)

### **Go Tell It**

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.  
Christ is born! Now, *all God's people say,*  
*"Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.*  
*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born."*  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.  
A light, see the light. *Refrain*  
Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born.  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
He's born! Christ is born! *Refrain*  
Go tellin' it, go singin' it. O my, what a beautiful noise.  
Go shoutin' it; go preachin' it; go tell it at the top of your voice.  
*Refrain.*

## Narrator

### Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Stars and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours, and love be mine.  
Love came down at Christmas,  
Love incarnate, Love divine.

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,  
Love came down.

Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and  
light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
the grateful earth rejoiced,  
And at His blessed birth  
the stars their exaltation voiced,  
Their exaltation voiced.

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Love came down, Love came down, Love came down.

All of the earth and heaven sing,

To celebrate the holy birth.

Love and light, life and joy He brings;  
and peace to all on earth.

Love came down at Christmas,

Love amazing, love divine;

Love came down at Christmas

Love be yours, and love be mine.

## Program Notes

- Come, Emmanuel, Come from *Love Came Down at Christmas*, by Joel Raney.
- Child of Hope from *Holy Night of Miracles*, by Lloyd Larson.
- The Angels and Shepherds and Glory to God in the Highest Heaven from *One Silent Night*, by Pepper Choplin.
- Wonder of the Star from *A Great and Mighty Wonder*, by Tom Fettke.
- Go Tell It from *I Hear the Prophet Callin'*, by Pepper Choplin.
- Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine from *Love Came Down at Christmas*, by Joel Raney.

## Participants

### **Soprano:**

Nicki Carter  
Theresa Kaman  
Phyllis Kazimier  
Elise Livingston  
Louise Strahs  
Jean Valsa  
Alaina Valsa

### **Alto:**

Cheryl Heber  
Mary Ann Keil  
Carol Richardson

### **Tenor:**

Rob Richardson

### **Bass:**

Ode Keil  
Charles Kemp  
George Zimmermann

### **Narrators:**

Pastor Hope  
Ronnie Obara

### **Keyboardist:**

Penny Kraft

### **Choral Director:**

Kim May



# 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: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.  
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1669-1716)  
from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715  
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual  
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

*Last time, end*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

*to Refrain*

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

