

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 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're visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG "Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)"

VERSE

**Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging;
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how You gently lift me;
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.**

CHORUS

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing.**

VERSE

**Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising;
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Ev'ry time I see You, all Your goodness shines through.
I can feel this God song rising up in me.**

REPEAT CHORUS

TAG: Your love makes me sing, your love makes me sing.

Words and music by: Brenton Brown | Brian Doerksen, © 2000 Vineyard Songs
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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Kathy Karch

One: From the rising of the sun to its going down

All: God calls God's people.

One: From the mountaintop

All: God's light shines out.

One: Today we remember the light that illuminated Jesus.

All: We celebrate his mountain top transfiguration.

One: Jesus, the light of the world.

All: Jesus, the light of love.

One: Jesus, the light of delight!

All: Jesus, the light that turns doubts to faith.

One: Let us pray:

God, we worship your majesty in beautiful sanctuaries,
and in common school gyms,

**All: behind closed doors
and in open spaces.**

One: Wherever your people gather, you are there,

**All: transfiguring each moment,
providing fresh revelation,
enlivening the journey.**

One: Forgive us when we are so consumed with small details
that we fail to see you in all your splendor.

**All: And forgive us when we look for you in grand places
and forget you will be found with the lowly ones.**

One: Forgive us and free us to see you afresh in every time and
place, sitting beside us in our rest and walking with us on
our way.

**All: Transfiguring Lord, transfigure our lives,
here in this worship, and in our every day. Amen.**

HYMN "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" #182

THE CHANCEL STEPS

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.

SONG RESPONSE "Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)"
chorus only

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kim May

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 99

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice

and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the LORD our God;

worship at his footstool.

Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees

and the statutes that he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the LORD our God,

and worship at his holy mountain,

for the LORD our God is holy.

WORDS ABOUT OUR SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

SONG "More Light, More Truth"

More light, more truth is breaking from your word.

More light, more truth,

Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.

Words & music by C. Grundy, © Hand and Soil Music, 2012

The Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Question and Moment of Reflection

Song “More Light, More Truth”

**More light, more truth is breaking from your word.
More light, more truth,
Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.**

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Question and Moment of Reflection

Song "More Light, More Truth"

More light, more truth is breaking from your word.

More light, more truth,

Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.

Matthew 17:1-8

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

Question and Moment of Reflection

Song "More Light, More Truth"

**More light, more truth is breaking from your word.
More light, more truth,
Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.**

Matthew 17:9-13

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." And the disciples asked him, "Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He replied, "Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things, but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

Question and Moment of Reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

“Be Now My Vision”

#451

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: 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

“I Sing the Praise of God Almighty”

#50

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “We are Marching in the Light of God”

**We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.**

Repeat

**We are marching – marching, we are marching, o-oooh,
we are marching in the light of God.**

Repeat

Call to worship & opening prayer from Spill the Beans, Issue 14, p. 105. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

CHURCH NEWS

ATTENTION GMAIL USERS: Gmail is rejecting many messages from Pastor Hope and the church office because it is designating them as spam. We're looking into what we can do about that on our end. In the meantime, if you use a gmail address, please take these steps to help ensure you receive messages from church: Add office@richmonducc.org and pastorhope@richmonducc.org to your contacts. Check your spam folder for any messages from those addresses; if you find any, click on the message and then click "report not spam." Those steps should help. Also, if you happen to have IT knowledge and know anything about setting up SPF or DKIM, talk to Pastor Hope.

UPDATES FROM CABINET: The Church Cabinet met last Monday night. Here are a few highlights from our discussion:

- Two of the church furnaces are not working properly; they are both from 1985 and while they were high quality when we installed them, it's possible they have outlived their usefulness. Cabinet is considering whether to purchase two new furnaces, for a proposed amount of roughly \$8000 (\$4000 each), or to make smaller repairs in the hopes that the furnaces hold out a few more years.
- We ended the month of January with about \$31,000 in our general fund; there are roughly \$5000 in uncleared checks recently sent to our mission partners, so we actually have about \$25,000 available. Treasurer Kathy Speaker keeps a close eye on these numbers to make sure that our payroll disperses without problem each month. It's possible we will need to move more funds from our long-term savings this month or next.
- We are looking forward to significant spring fundraisers in May with the Tea on May 7 and the Plant Sale on May 13. These events will require some work from us all, especially in spreading the word and inviting others to join us. Stay tuned for more details.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY WITH PHOTOS:

We will be updating the church directory this spring with new photos of our friends and members. George Zimmermann will be available after worship on March 5, 12, 26, and April 2, 9, and 16 to take your pictures, in our own "photo studio" in the church basement. A sign-up sheet is available to help with our planning, though it's not required that you sign up in advance. When you have your photo taken, you will also check and update your directory information. To help us continue to get to know each other better, we'll also ask you to provide a little bit about your interests, activities, secret talents, or

other bits of information that might help us connect. If you are unable to be at church on any of the above days, contact George at george.r.zimmermann@gmail.com for other arrangements.

FOR LEARNING

BIBLE STUDY will be Tuesday on Zoom at 1:00. 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 18.

FOR SERVICE

DISASTER RESPONSE FROM THE WIDER CHURCH:

From the United Church of Christ "God of grace and mercy, many are suffering loss today. Around the world and in our communities, we are mourning. Today we come holding in our prayers our siblings in Turkey and Syria who are still searching for and rescuing survivors and victims of this earthquake. Be present with these families and communities during this time of crisis and need. Be a source of strength and comfort through these days ahead. Help us to be present on behalf of those in need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen." - Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

The UCC is issuing an appeal to assist those affected in the region. You can make your special offerings to support those in need by marking your giving envelope "Earthquake Relief".

Read more at

<https://www.ucc.org/deadly-earthquake-strikes-turkey-syria-border-ucc-delegation-in-europe-connects-with-partners-to-respond>

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at www.raiseright.com/brands

If you give Penny a gift card order on Sunday, your cards are usually here by midweek. Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

HOST FELLOWSHIP SNACKS: A simple snack is all that's needed, and coffee-making tutorials are available. Sign-up sheet is available in the lounge today.

YOUTH EDUCATION MINISTRY will meet after worship on March 5. All are welcome to join us as we plan for Sunday school, family fun outings, and Vacation Bible School! Talk to Jean Valsa for more information.

FOR CONNECTION
LENT IS COMING

Lent is the season of preparation before the celebration of Easter day. It begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 22 this year. That evening you are invited to a soup & bread supper hosted by the Worship & Spiritual Growth Ministry Team. Supper begins at 6:00. At 7:00, we will hold a short, devotional service in the sanctuary.

Throughout March, we will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings for Soup & Spirit gatherings. We'll need donations of about 3-4 homemade soups and a couple of breads each week as well as someone to do some simple hosting duties.

After those suppers, we'll spend a little time in discussion about The Sermon on the Mount. No special resources are needed but Pastor Hope will be ordering a few copies of "The Sermon on the Mount" by Amy-Jill Levine to guide conversation. If you'd like her to order you a copy, please sign up or call the office. We will wrap up no later than 7:30.

Choir will rehearse afterwards.

You're welcome to join us for just dinner, or just discussion, or the whole evening; come once or twice or throughout Lent. These evenings have been meaningful to many of us over the years and we look forward to sharing in them again this year.

SPRING TEA – Save the Date!

The 10th Spring Tea will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 7, at Maravela's Banquet Center in Fox Lake. The afternoon will include a tea service, a silent auction, lovely hats and accessories for purchase, good entertainment, and the joyful company of friends together. Save the date, invite your friends, and start saving your dollars so you can join us at this delightful event. Tickets will be available for purchase before long. For more details, Yvonne Kemp would love to tell you more.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Liturgist Kathy Karch
Video Director
Greeter/Usher
Fellowship Host Lydia Blanton
Sunday School Mike Kennedy

Feb 26

Liturgist Mike Anderson
Video Director
Greeter/Usher
Fellowship Hosts Karen Wootton
Sunday School Mike Kennedy

March 5

Liturgist Cheryl Kazimier
Video Director
Greeter/Usher
Fellowship Hosts Tedder Family
Communion Prep

March 12

Liturgist George Zimmermann
Video Director
Greeter/Usher
Fellowship Hosts
Sunday School Gail Crutcher

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

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 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-Linda Swenson (2/19), Karen Wootton (2/21), Evelyn Heber (2/23), Mike Kennedy (2/23), and Christina Runnfeldt (2/24).

Thanks that Marti S.'s grandson, Jake, is home from the hospital.
Thanks that Derek, the fiancée of Mike Kennedy's daughter, is out of the hospital and recovering.

Condolences to the family of Mollie Morris, who passed away last week. Mollie was a friend of the Kaman family.

PRAYERS FOR:

Deann Workmon
The wider church
Jimmy Bletsch and family, friends of the Kemps
Families going through hard times
Louise Strahs
Phyllis Kazimier
Yvonne Kemp
Russell Koca, Cheryl H.'s father

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is DeAnn Workmon.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Faith Community U.C.C. in Bensenville and their Pastor, the Rev. Greg Sabetta.

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

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com-plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus

Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion

all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a

pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch of 1825.

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.

Dimitri Boriniansky, 1825