

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

**Our Church at Worship on the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 20, 2022**

**10:00 A.M.**

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

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

GATHERING SONG “From All that Dwell below the Skies” #27  
Cheryl Heber

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Mike Kennedy

One: Rejoice, folks, Jesus is in our midst.

Be glad, friends, Jesus has bread and fish to spare.

Sing for joy, people of God;

God gathers up the pieces of our lives, so that nothing may  
be lost.

**One: Thanks be to God!**

One: Let us pray:

O God, We come believing in our emptiness,  
believing that we will never have enough,  
believing that what we have is unworthy.

**All: Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.**

One: We come fearful of sharing,  
fearful of losing our slim grip on security,  
fearful of touching the pain of others.

**All: Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.**

One: We come overwhelmed by the hunger,  
overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far,  
overwhelmed by the endless tales of violence, greed, and  
death.

**All: Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.**

One: We come aching from the weight of responsibility,  
aching from the challenge of knowing our abundance,

aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much to share.

**All: Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.**

One: We come clinging to our meager lunches:

**All: Bless them, and us.  
break them, and us.  
share them, and us.  
Amen.**

HYMN

“Guide Me, O my Great Redeemer”

#18

### **WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

WORD FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:11-15

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

The Gospel according to John 6:31-40,48-59,66-69

Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my

own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

MESSAGE      Abundant Life: Invited in with Living Bread

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN

“Jesus the Christ Says”

#48

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 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

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.**

(Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI)

Call to worship, adp. from <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>  
Opening prayer, adp. from K. Hawker, at <http://liturgyoutside.net/>  
Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

Special thanks today to Cheryl Heber for being our song leader while Kim is out and to Ronnie Obara for being our 'guest musician' pushing the buttons on Penny's recordings while Penny is away.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**BIBLE STUDY:** 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! This Tuesday, we'll be studying John 9.

**UPDATES FROM CHURCH CABINET:** The Cabinet met last Monday evening on Zoom. Here are some notes from that meeting:  
+ We ended January with a lot of financial 'red' with about \$25,000 in our regular bank account; about \$5000 of that is checks that were written and not yet cashed. As Treasurer Kathy Speaker says, when you bring in about \$10,000 for the month and \$6500 of it is already committed to salaries, it goes quickly. (Most of the rest goes to things like snow clearing, insurance, and heat and electricity.)  
+ So, we spent some time brainstorming ideas for new fundraisers, including ideas like an ice cream festival or strawberry festival on the church lawn; a plant sale in early summer featuring a large number of hostas – and maybe other similar plants that you need to thin at your home... We know that you have other ideas as well and we need them. This is a time to try something new.

### **LENT IS COMING:**

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 2. Plans are still being formed, but right now we expect to offer a chance to stop at the church and receive ashes on that day as well as a brief, in-person (and livestreamed) worship time that evening.

We also plan to hold weekly discussions on Wednesday evenings on Zoom as we did last Lent, probably from 7:00 until about 7:45. More details will be out next week.

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

+ After conversation with Worship & Spiritual Growth and with the Cabinet, beginning next Sunday, Feb. 27, we'll welcome up to 3 households of people to worship in the sanctuary. YOU NEED TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE TO COME. Singles, couples, families – whoever you are, you are welcome to sign up and come worship. To sign up, go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094DAEA82DA4FF2-inperson>

There you'll find a list of upcoming Sundays, each with 3 sign-up slots. Select the Sunday you want to come, type in your name and email, click 'sign-up' and you're all set! Bring your mask and we'll see you in worship!

If you have problems with the online sign-up, contact the church office (Tues – Thurs AM) or Pastor Hope directly, and we'll get you signed up.

+ As for 'no-sign-up-required' worship: We hope it will be back soon. Church leadership is watching the COVID statistics for McHenry County, which are still higher than most of our surrounding areas and still significantly higher than they were during the fall or even in December. When things reach roughly the levels they were in early December, we should be able to regather without sign-ups, and that could happen in a few weeks.

## **Bible Background**

- As best as we can tell, the author of John's gospel wrote to an community of Jewish people who had become followers of Jesus, and who had been shunned by their own synagogues because of their faith in Jesus. They had been cast out of their communities in order to live out their new faith. They were in a time of wilderness. It's important to keep this context in mind as we read through John's gospel with its constant focus on God's presence and relationship.

- John 6 starts by telling the story of Jesus feeding a great crowd of people who have been following him with only 5 small loaves of bread and 2 fish, donated to the cause by a child. The story of that miraculous feeding is the only miracle story told in all 4 gospels.

- it's worth noticing that nobody has to 'deserve' getting fed by Jesus; he simply feeds everyone who's hungry. It's an important reminder that Jesus cares about our physical condition, not just our spiritual lives. As a unique detail in John's description of this event is that he says Jesus himself distributes the food to the people, not that he gives it to the disciples to hand out. Isn't that a beautiful thought?

- John describes seven 'signs' that Jesus does that we might commonly call miracles. John doesn't expect that people will automatically understand the importance of what's really happened through the signs or completely understand to whom the signs point. (Hint: It's Jesus who is sent from heaven!) And so John has a pattern: After each sign, there's a little bit of dialogue (when people ask Jesus questions or comment on what they've seen) and then some discourse (when Jesus teaches more about what the sign was meant to reveal). In chapter 6, the feeding of the 5,000 is a sign. Then people question Jesus about it (verses 25-34) and then there's a significant 'discourse' (verses 35-59). We've seen this pattern before in John and will see it again, next week, for instance. It's helpful to remember, as we feel like Jesus is repeating himself about being the bread, that he's explaining and talking about the actual feeding of people on the hill at the start of the chapter.

We can't read all of John chapter 6 in worship today, but I encourage you to take some time this week and read it. Read it slowly and try to soak in Jesus' invitational message. Another good way to appreciate this section of Scripture is with the film version of the gospel of John, which we watched together in Lent 4 year ago. I have a hard copy of the video here at church if you'd like to borrow it or you can watch the whole film on YouTube; it's titled "The Gospel of John" and found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-k0D\\_qFPb4o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-k0D_qFPb4o)

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 20, 2022**

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.*

**JOYS: Birthdays** –Linda Swenson (Feb 19), Karen Wootton (Feb 21), Evelyn Heber (Feb 23), Mike Kennedy (Feb 23), Christina Runnfeldt (Feb 24), Alexis Connerty (Feb 26), Zofia Obara (Feb 26)

“We rejoice with Sheryl Vezina who has ended her radiation treatments and has been getting the all-clear from her medical professionals.”

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

A Richmond family in a time of crisis

Marti Swanson

Kim May recovering from Scheduled surgery

Elise Livingston’s friend, Jim Wright (Patty’s husband)

Debbie Franzone

Deann Workmon

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

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

### **Prayer Partner**

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Jean Barger.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ, First Congregation United Church of Christ in Genoa City and their pastor, The Rev. Patricia Handley.

**We also pray for our Mission Partner:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, which IGNITES, INSPIRES, and DEFENDS the potential of youth in our community. We believe that every child has the potential to succeed and thrive in life. At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we match each child ("Little") with a mentor ("Big"), and professionally support their relationship over time. Find out more at [www.bbbsmchenry.org](http://www.bbbsmchenry.org)

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

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi

# From All That Dwell below the Skies

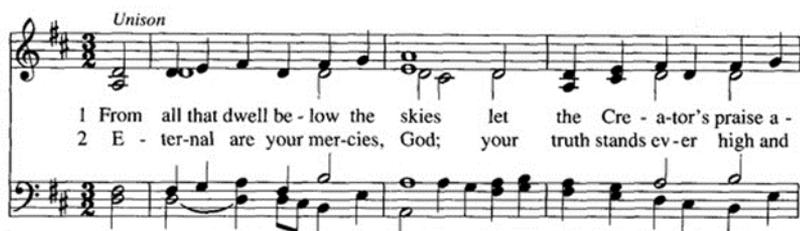
GOD

27

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 117

*Unison*



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -  
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, God; your truth stands ev - er high and

*(Harmony)* *(Unison)*



rise; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - cr's name be  
broad: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your praise shall sound from shore to

*(Harmony)*



sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

*(Unison)*



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Isaac Watts, author of more than 600 hymns, paraphrased the two verses of Psalm 117 into this two-stanza hymn, which was included in his *Psalms of David*, 1719. The tune originated in a German Catholic hymnal.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
8.8.4.4.8.8, with alleluias  
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623  
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Harmonization Copyright ©, Oxford University Press. From *The English Hymnal* 1906.

## Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing  
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;  
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.  
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

John 6:48; 14:6; 11:25; 8:12; 9:5

Urdu, anon.; alt.

Unison

C G/B C Dm/F

1 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the bread, the bread of life for the  
 2 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the way, the way and the truth and the  
 3 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the light, the one true light of the  
 4 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the life, the res - ur - rec - tion and the

C/G G C Dm/F G

world am I. The bread of life for the world am I, the  
 life am I. The way and the truth and the life am I, the  
 world am I. The one true light of the world am I, the  
 life am I. The res - ur - rec - tion and the life am I, the

Am Em G/D D G C G/B

bread of life for the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,  
 way and the truth and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,  
 one true light of the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,  
 res - ur - rec - tion and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,

C Em Am Dm G7 C

I am the bread, the bread of life for the world am I.  
 I am the way, the way and the truth and the life am I.  
 I am the light, the one true light of the world am I.  
 I am the life, the res - ur - rec - tion and the life am I.

This anonymous hymn, both text and tune, originated in Pakistan or northern India and has been sung around the world since its publication by the East Asia Christian Council and the World Council of Churches.

Tune: YISU NE KAH A 9.9.9.9.9.

Urdu melody

Arr. Francis B. Westbrook, 1950