

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021 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. If you can't join promptly at 10:00, the video will be available later as well.

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

GATHERING SONG “My Life is in You, Lord”

Chorus

**My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord;
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.
My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord;
My hope is in You Lord, in You, it's in You.**

Verse

**I will praise You with all of my life;
I will praise You with all of my strength.
With all of my life, with all of my strength,
All of my hope is in You.**

Repeat Chorus

Tag **In You, it's in You. In You.**

Words and Music by Daniel Gardner © 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music ; CCLI License No. 1908882

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Mike Anderson

One: What does the Lord require of you?

**All: To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

One: What does God command of us?

**All: To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**All: But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

Let us pray:

Holy One, we come as we are today, seeking to be your people,
seeking to serve others in your name.

May our worship be worthy of your glory.

As we come to you, we confess to you that we are not always worthy of your glory.

We confess, most merciful God, that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

All: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

All: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

All: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God.

One: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God,
so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

#498

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

Verse 1:

**Knelt at the feet of friends,
Silently washing their feet
Jesu, you acted as servant to them.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 2:

**Neighbors are rich and poor,
Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3:

**These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and you.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 4:

**Loving puts us on our knees,
Showing our faith by your deeds,
Serving the neighbors we have from you.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 5:

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you.**

Repeat Refrain

WORD FOR ALL AGES – A story about loving our neighbors – “Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too,” by Jennifer Grant, illustrated by Benjamin Schipper

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Come as You Are”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Words and music by David Crowder, Matt Maher, Ben Glover; © 2014 9t One Songs; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535

Come out of sadness	So lay down your burdens
From wherever you've been	Lay down your shame
Come brokenhearted	All who are broken
Let rescue begin	Lift up your face
Come find your mercy	Oh wanderer come home
Oh sinner come kneel	You're not too far
Earth has no sorrow	So lay down your hurt
That heaven can't heal	Lay down your heart
Earth has no sorrow	Come as you are
That heaven can't heal	...

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

The Gospel according to Luke 10:25-42 (New Revised Standard Version)

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”
But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”
Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

MESSAGE We Once Were Lost: Lost from Each Other

HYMN "Bind Us Together"

Chorus: **Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,
Lord, bind us together in love.**

Verse: **There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing.**

Repeat Chorus

Words and Music: Bob Gillman ©1977 ThankYou Music; CCLI License No. 1908882

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 RESPONSE "Amazing Grace"

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now, I see.**

OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! Though we rarely see each other in person these days, our church is still: providing worship; providing Sunday school for our church kids; connecting members with each other; supporting neighbors in need, locally and further away. We believe those things are parts of God's calling for us in this place and we can do them because of steady financial support.

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

Prayer of Dedication – You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church... **May all that we give – be it our money or ourselves – be used to heal and to help, to repair and to restore, to comfort and to care. May all that we give be used so we might be your church, O God. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.**

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, Eliza Tweedy, UCC Pastor; Confession, adapted from New Century Hymnal, p. 2; Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the beans, Is 22, p. 22; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

LENTEN SPIRIT GATHERINGS

Well, we can't share soup in the fellowship hall, but we can still gather to nourish our spirits in this holy season. The next 5 Wednesdays on Zoom at 7:00 for about an hour, we'll gather to wonder together about what grace is, how it meets us, and why it meets us so often in "the other." The link to this gathering is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86424714669?pwd=bFBuM1VYMGM0c2Jha2ZtY1Y1SmJodz09>

Or go to zoom.us, click "Join Meeting", enter 864 2471 4669 for the Meeting ID and 131458 for the Security Passcode. IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST, in addition to the online meetings, a few of us could meet in-person on this same topic. Contact Pastor Hope right away if you're interested, so we can coordinate.

BINGO is BACK! Sunday, March 7, at 4:00. The Valsa family were the big winners at the January edition, and we look forward to spending some more fellowship fun time together in a few weeks. You'll need: a computer or other device to access Zoom; Bingo cards – either your own or those you print at home or those you've asked Judy Jooss to deliver to you; Bingo markers – coins, buttons, M&Ms...

When it's time, we'll all log onto the Zoom link. Judy will be our Bingo caller; calls will be displayed on the screen also. We'll mark our cards accordingly. We'll play several games with some breaks in between for chatting, and we'll have some small prizes available for the great Bingo-ers among us.

If you need Bingo cards printed and dropped off for you, let Judy know soon. If you print your own, Judy recommends printing them from:

<https://letsplaybingo.io/generator>

The link for our gathering will be shared closer to the event. Other questions? Contact Judy – jdjooss@gmail.com or 262-877-9301.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The church leaders would like to offer households an opportunity to attend church in-person! We will remain cautious and follow all CDC and State of Illinois guidelines. These include wearing a mask while attending, maintaining social distancing, and sitting with members of your household in the assigned pew(s). We also ask everyone to bring a copy of the bulletin or access it from their phone.

We will have one household per week attend starting February 21st. We are taking 'reservations' now. If you would like to sign up or having any questions, please email Kelli at kellibrossart@gmail.com. Those interested will be added to the schedule on a first-come, first-

served basis. You will receive an email reminder mid-week of the Sunday you are schedule to attend. The email will also include the attendance guidelines as a refresher!

We know this is not a replacement for “regular” church, but we hope this provides a chance to reconnect with our beautiful place of worship. We are heading into final stretches of this remote worship journey, and all of us look forward to the day we can fully return!

Genoa City UCC Lenten Lunches Drive thru Lenten Lunch, Wednesdays through March 31st. Lunch will consist of a choice of 2 soups, crackers, and a lettuce salad, along with a dessert. Payment will be a free will offering. Pick-up will be on Wednesdays from 11:30 - 12:30 in the church driveway. **To order your lunch, call Eileen DiMarco at 262-492-6520 on the Sunday before, from noon to 3 pm, or on Monday from 9 to noon.**

The soup choices and other important information will be on their church Facebook page (FirstCongregationalUCCGenoaCity).

OPPORTUNITIES TO DO GOOD:

Support the Northern Illinois Food Bank at their event, the 6th Annual Cup of Hope: A Virtual Tea; it will be held online on Sunday, March 7. This spring’s afternoon tea will feature performances by actors from the Broadway hit musical Hamilton singing some of your favorite songs with special performance by Miguel Cervantes, Ta-Tynisa Wilson and Tamar Greene. Enjoy a theatrical performance, special silent auction, raffle prizes and much more all from the safety of your home! To register, visit their website: www.SolveHungerToday.org/cupofhope

Support our sponsored child through World Vision with a special offering marked “World Vision.” A couple years ago, our Sunday School began a relationship with a young girl named Fatima in Sri Lanka through World Vision. We send World Vision \$40/month to sponsor Fatima. Our children’s offering from the Chancel Steps times in worship used to go toward that \$40, but of course we haven’t been able to receive offerings from our children for a while. So, if you’re able to send something extra to the church toward our \$480 yearly total for this giving, we’d be grateful! If we raise more than that through your special giving, the surplus will go to our Wider Mission Ministry.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY continues Tuesday at 2PM open to everyone to read and discuss the Bible passage for the coming Sunday. Tell Pastor Hope if you want the Zoom link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY continues at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

OUR PART IN THE STORY: DEVOTIONS ON SUNDAY'S TEXT

The Compassionate Samaritan

Luke 10:25-42

Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

Monday: Teaching the Disciples to Pray **Luke 11:1-13**

❖ Read this text in a different translation from what you usually use. What did you learn hearing a different version?

Tuesday: Demons and Signs **Luke 11:14-36**

❖ What kinds of signs do people look for today? What do you think God is showing us?

Wednesday: Pharisees and Lawyers **Luke 11:37-54**

❖ Why does Jesus have harsh words for the law and those who hold people to it? What is the use of the law?

Thursday: Warnings and Exhortations **Luke 12:1-21**

❖ Jesus exhorts the people not to worry about dying. Do these words offer you comfort?

Friday: Do Not Worry, but Watch **Luke 12:22-40**

❖ How does God care for you? How are you watchful for God?

Saturday: Faithful and Unfaithful **Luke 12:41-59**

❖ How are you faithful in preparing for God's work in the world?

www.theartoffaith.net

PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 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: 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), Ina Obara (Feb 28)

CONCERNS

People suffering through unusually cold weather, power outages, lack of water, especially in Texas

For our nation and our elected leaders

Those living with homelessness around us

Those struggling with loneliness and sadness

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers, staff, and administrators; school children and their parents, including college students

Those whose household relationships are strained

Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic

Healthcare workers, especially Cheryl Kazimier's niece and Rob Rummel's daughter-in-law

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)

June Whitney (at home)