

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 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 **It's 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

Kathy Speaker

One: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:

That it is not we who chose Christ, but Christ who chose us;
That we are not here because of our goodness, but because of Christ's grace;
That we are not here to enlighten ourselves, but to allow Christ to enlighten us;
That we have not come to be entertained,
but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you are so patient with us.
Day in and day out, week in and week out,
you call us to wake up to our opportunity to bear fruit for you.
And yet...

We know that you love us and you call us to fullness of life,
but around us and within us, we see the brokenness of our world and of our ways.

All: Have mercy on us, o God, according to your steadfast love.

Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy.
Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing.

All: Have mercy on us, o God, according to your steadfast love.

Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others,
and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us.

All: Have mercy on us, o God, according to your steadfast love.

One: Patient God, hear us, we pray. Amen.

Quiet moment

One: Remember: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
the past is finished and gone, everything becomes fresh and new.
Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

OPENING HYMN “Ask Me What Great Thing I Know”

#49

Verse 1: **Ask me what great thing I know
That delights and stirs me so,
What the high reward I win,
Whose the name I glory in:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

Verse 2: **Who defeats my fiercest foes?
Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart,
Healing all that grief imparts?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

Verse 3: **Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who holds all my days secure,
In God’s heart where love is sure?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

Verse 4: **This is that great thing I know;
This delights and stirs me so:
Faith in Christ who died to save,
Christ who triumphed o’er the grave,
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

#49, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: Hendon 7.7.7.7 | H.A. Cesar Malan 1827

SCRIPTURE Psalm 27

Kathy Speaker

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

WORD FOR ALL AGES with special guests

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Worth It All”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Songwriters: Jason Ingram, Jonathan Lindley Smith, Ben Cantelon, Benji Cowart; © Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Songtrust Ave, Essential Music Publishing; CCLI License No. 1908882

All I am Lord here before You
Reaching out for more.
You're the promise never failing
You are my reward,
Jesus, You are my reward

There's no riches or earthly treasure
That will satisfy
Every longing is for You Jesus
Set this heart on fire
Oh, set this heart on fire

I let go of all I have just to have all of You
And no matter what the cost I will follow You
Jesus everything I've lost I have found in You
When I finally reach the end I'll say
You are worth it all

I let go of all I have just to have all of You
And no matter what the cost I will follow You
Jesus everything I've lost I have found in You
When I finally reach the end I'll say
You are worth it all
You are worth it all

...

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (New Revised Standard Version)

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for

fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

... At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

MESSAGE We Once Were Lost: When So Much is Lost

HYMN "There is a Balm in Gilead"

Refrain: **There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

Verse 1: **Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the holy spirit revives my soul again.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 2: **Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend
Who if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3: **If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all.**

Repeat Refrain

#553, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune:African American spiritual

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.**

Cheryl Heber

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to
fear,
and grace, my fears relieved:
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

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, Bruce Prewer, from www.bruceprewer.com; Confession, adapted from The UCC Book of Worship, p. 63 and Spill the Beans, Is 22, p. 16; 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 – djjooss@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](https://www.facebook.com/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

Lament Over Jerusalem

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

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

Monday: Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

Luke 13:10-17

❖ Why did Jesus insist on healing the woman on the Sabbath? After eighteen years, could she have not waited another day?

Tuesday: Parables of Mustard Seed and Yeast

Luke 13:18-21

❖ To what can you compare the kingdom of God? Come up with your own parable.

Wednesday: The Narrow Door

Luke 13:22-30

❖ Why do you think the owner of the house would claim to not know those with whom he had dined? What is the narrow door?

Thursday: Humility and Hospitality

Luke 14:1-14

❖ Who would you invite to a banquet? Where would you sit at a banquet to which you were invited?

Friday: The Parable of the Great Dinner

Luke 14:15-24

❖ What excuses do you give when challenged to do God's work?

Saturday: The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-35

❖ How great is the cost of following Jesus? Is it worth it?

www.theartoffaith.net

PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 28, 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: James Kraft (March 4), Ava Connerty (March 6)

CONCERNS

Cheryl Kazimier's cousin, Ralph

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)