

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

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

**February 6, 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**

GATHERING MUSIC

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG “The Heart of Worship”

When the music fades  
All is stripped away  
And I simply come  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song  
For a song in itself  
Is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear  
You're looking into my heart

I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus

King of endless worth  
No one could express  
How much you deserve  
Though I'm weak and poor  
All I have is Yours  
Every single breath!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cheryl Kazimier

One: We gather on this Lord's Day, about the Lord's table,  
to celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts  
and presence of Christ:

**All: who touches us with healing and makes us whole;**

One: who teaches us God's love and brings us to life;

**All: who washes us in baptism's waters and frees us from sin;**

One: who reconciles us to God and unites us with others;

**All: who feeds us with the bread and cup and comes to us;**

One: who shapes us as servants and equips us for ministry.

**All: Blessing, glory, and honor be to God forever.**

One: Let us worship God who is holy goodness;  
let us bring our praise to the God of deepest truth.

**All: We come offering ourselves to God in awesome wonder;  
Holy, holy, holy, God of hosts;  
all earth is full of your glory!**

TIME OF CONFESSION

One: God of mercy, hear the prayers of your thirsting people.  
For every time we have attributed your miracles  
in our lives to our own hands alone,

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our  
own way when your response did not come soon enough or in  
the way we expected,

**All: Grant us mercy, O God.**

One: For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness  
that we have refused,

**All: Show us what it means to love, again, dear Lord.**

One: For each way we put our own understandings above your  
wisdom, For each time we resist your command to be  
reconciled with those who believe differently from us,

**All: Direct us in the way of peace, we pray.**

One: For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence,  
and our indifference to the suffering round us,

**All: Forgive us, Loving One, and quench our thirst with your  
grace;  
Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion.  
For Christ's sake we pray.**

Quiet Moment

Assurance of Forgiveness

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 4:1-42

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him,

“I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest?’ But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

MESSAGE

Abundant Life: Invited in with Truth

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

SONG

“To Be Loved This Way”

Verse 1:

**If it’s true, You love me as I am,  
and not as I think I should be.  
Then I’m free to face the parts of me,  
I’m tempted to deny.**

Chorus 1:

**God, You know all my laughter  
and all of my tears;  
You know where I’ve been and  
You know why I’m here.  
And You know it heals my deepest wounds,**

Verse 2: **to be loved this way  
If it's true, You love us as we are  
and not as we think we should be.  
Then we're free to trust the Mystery  
and Love beyond all fear.**

Chorus 2: **God You know all our laughter  
and all of our tears;  
You know where we've been  
and You know why we're here.  
And You know it heals our deepest wounds,  
to be loved this way (repeat)**

Words and Music: Bryan Sirchio @2007 Crosswind Music

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation

#### Communion Prayer and 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.**

#### Words of Remembering

Now as they were eating together, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink of it, all of you; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration – Place your hands over the bread and cup you have before you as we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to each table that's been prepared for you today. Bless each bite and each sip that we share in your name today. Bless each of us in our eating and drinking; wherever we are, let our eyes be opened, so that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, in our enemies, and in all for whom Christ lived and died. Amen.

We Share the Elements – Partake of what is before you as you share your table with Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks  
that you have refreshed us at your table  
by granting us the presence of Christ.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SONG RESPONSE “Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above, you heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

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

You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church...

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “This Little Light of Mine” #524

**This little light of mine,  
I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I’m gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.**

Tune: this Joy irr. | African American Spiritual | Arr. Jeffrey Radford 1993  
POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, Before the Amen, p. 121, Arlene L. Drennan; Confession, Worship Ways for 3/23/14;  
Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

## **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 4:46-54 and 5:1-18

**BINGO TIME TODAY!** Beat the winter blues with some Bingo with church friends. We'll play on Zoom as we did last winter. Starting at 4:00. Prizes will be awarded and laughter is guaranteed! Judy Jooss is our intrepid planner for this event, she will also be the bingo caller. 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 to deliver to you; Bingo markers – coins, buttons, M&Ms, Cheerios. Calls will be displayed on the screen. We'll mark our cards accordingly. We'll play several games with some breaks in between for chatting. If you print your own Bingo cards, Judy recommends printing them from: <https://letsplaybingo.io/generator> If you don't have a printer and need hard copies of Bingo cards, please let Judy know ASAP, so that she can put them in the mail to you.

BINGO Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84394231799?pwd=di95c2wwcVpqb09mNEVxWmJmRUY1QT09>

**BINGO Meeting ID:** 843 9423 1799      **Passcode:** 872245

Other questions? Contact Judy – [jdjooss@gmail.com](mailto:jdjooss@gmail.com) or 262-877-9301. (Sent her an email)

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Thanks to all who donated blood. We collected 24 pints of blood...our goal was 18.

## **BIBLE BACKGROUND**

There are so many unique and important details in today's long Bible story; here are just a few highlights.

- This is the longest conversation Jesus has with anyone in all the gospels – and he has it with a woman from Samaria whose name we never learn.

- The hatred and conflict between Jews and Samaritans went way, way back in time to not long after King Solomon when the united kingdom of Israel split into northern and southern kingdoms. Samaria was part of the Northern Kingdom; Jerusalem was part of the Southern. Their divisions got worse during and after the Babylonian exile. By the time of Jesus, most Jewish people would have considered most Samaritans to be “outside the reach of God’s salvation” (according to John scholar, Karoline Lewis). They certainly had routes to travel between Jerusalem and Galilee to avoid going through Samaria; Jesus chose instead to go right through the land of the enemy.

Are there people, or groups of people, who you’ve considered to be outside the reach of God’s salvation? Can you think of groups who historically have felt that way about each other? What might this story say to those situations?

- In the Bible, when a man and a woman meet at a well, they usually end up married: Moses and Zipporah, Isaac and Rebekkah, and Jacob and Rachel are all examples of that trend.

- This woman’s five husbands have very often been used against her by modern preachers to imply that she’s unfaithful or promiscuous. Remember, women in Jesus’ time had no say in who they married, and without a husband, they really couldn’t interact in the public sphere. They couldn’t own land or hold a job for pay. They also couldn’t initiate divorce, while a man could divorce his wife for almost any reason; one of the most common reasons was if a wife failed to have children. It’s reasonable to think that part applies to this woman. So she has perhaps lost some husbands to death and perhaps been divorced by some husbands and not succeeded at her only important job, which is to produce a child. When Jesus mentions her many husbands, he’s not judging her behavior, but is seeing her great grief.

As for the one she’s living with now who’s not her husband: That most likely implies that a family member of one of those past husbands has taken her into his household for the sake of providing

for her, but we're left to assume that she's tolerated there, not welcomed.

- In John, Jesus reveals his identity a number of times with the simple words "I am." Those words make a connection back to Moses at the burning bush who asked for God's name and was told something that we often translate as "I am who I am" or simply "I am." The very first time Jesus makes this important statement is to this random woman of Samaria.

- The woman says to her fellow townspeople, "Come and see." Jesus said those words to call the first disciples in John, and then the first disciples used those words to invite others into discipleship. When the woman says those words, she's being represented as a disciple as well.

Some of John's favorite words:

"World" – John uses this word 58 times. It's what God loved, and here in 4:42, it's what Jesus is the Savior of. The other gospels use this word 10 times or less.

"Truth" – John uses it 21 times; the other gospels, just once or twice.

"Abide" – also translated as "stay," "remain," "dwell." John uses over 40 times.

I think John's trying to make the point that God came to the world (which God loved enough to send Jesus) so we might know the truth of God's abiding presence with us, and choose ourselves to abide (live) in God's love for us.

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 6, 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.*

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Brandi's relative Ginger Kolbaba (She's been put on a vent)  
Debbie Franzone  
Deann Workmon  
Sheryl Vezina

### **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 Mercedes Ahlgrim.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Grace Lutheran Church and their pastor, The Rev. Andy Tyrell.

**We also pray for our Mission Partner:** A Christian Ministry in the Nation Parks. ACMNP is a grassroots, student-led ministry that began in Yellowstone National Park in 1951 with the dream of providing Christian community for the people working in, living in, and visiting the first national park in the world. Learn more about them at [www.acmnp.com](http://www.acmnp.com)

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

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

\*\*\*New Address for Mercedes Ahlgrim  
Mercedes Ahlgrim  
Sombrillo Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility  
1001 Sombrillo Ct  
Los Alamos NM 87554

## To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

*Descant*

4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

*Unison*

1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery-  
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the  
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to  
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

*(Harmony)* *(Unison)*

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en  
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a  
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and  
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

Miriam Therese Winter described her thoughts about adapting this text: "As I entered into communion with the word and spirit of the hymn, I felt called to enable that unknown-to-me poet's wisdom to live on into the future, a moving commission, and also felt a bond with the one who had gone before."

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

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 8.8.4.8.8. with alleluias  
 Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623  
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al - le -

*(Harmony)*

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais - es,  
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais - es, al - le -  
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais - es,  
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais - es,

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

*(Unison)*

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

5 Now we who are of ten - der heart,  
 for - giv - ing oth - ers, take our part,  
 sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia!  
 To you we lift our pain and care,  
 re - ceive the bur - dens that we bear,  
 sing - ing prais - es, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

6 In you, a kind and gen - tle death  
 pre - pares to hush our fi - nal breath,  
 sing - ing prais - es, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ goes be - fore us to re - new  
 the way that leads us home to you.  
 Hear our prais - es, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.