

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 7, 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 will share communion during this worship time. You're invited to get something to break – bread, cracker, cookie, muffin – and something to drink and have them with you as we worship.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING SONG “Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)”

Verse 1: **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 2: **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.**

Chorus 2X

Tag **Your love makes me sing
Your love makes me sing**

Words and music by: Brenton Brown | Brian Doerksen, © 2000 Vineyard Songs (Admin. by Vineyard Music UK) CCLI License No. 1908882

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Mike Kennedy

One: Four-star general or small-town widow, God's heart has room for both.

We gather today to hear stories of restoration and resurrection.

Come in faith and hope to the One who sees in each of us someone in need of His love.

Let us pray: God of healing, into the balm of your presence we come;
we are ready to praise you for your creative power, in this time and always.
We praise you for the story you share, in which we all find our part,
in which we hear about a world reconciled, a people restored, salvation given.

All: We praise you and ask you to restore us.

One: Jesus, healer and peace-bringer, we come as your sisters and brothers,
to walk the way of love, to follow the path you lead,
to share the grace we experience, and know again that in you we find God.

All: We praise you and ask you to restore us.

One: God of grace, we also come as fallen children, with good intentions,
yet causing harm to ourselves and others.
We live as poor witnesses to your love.

All: We praise you and ask you to restore us.

One: Forgive us in the name of Jesus, and work in us.
Restore us so we might be people who know and bring reconciliation,
who know and bring healing for the relationships we touch.

All: We praise you and ask you to restore us.

One: As with generals and widows have testified through the ages, you are trustworthy.
So we pray, Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

HYMN "I Sing the Praise of God Almighty" #50

Verse 1:

**I sing the praise of Love almighty, which shines revealed in Jesus face.
I offer up all that delights me, all mean desires, each fond embrace,
Turn from myself, in pure devotion, and eager plunge in love's vast ocean.**

Verse 4:

**May my heart bear the deep impression of love that Jesus shares with me,
My life become a pure expression of all that Christian love can be:
Each word, each act, a bright reflection of joy in Love's own resurrection.**

#50, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: St. Peterburg, Dimitri Bortniansky 1825

WORD FOR ALL AGES – Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for people who are mean to you."
Do you follow what Jesus said about how to treat your enemies? Is it easy or hard to do?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Luke 6:27-36

And he said: "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”

The Gospel according to Luke 7:1-17 (NRSV)

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.” And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, rise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen among us!” and “God has looked favorably on his people!” This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

MESSAGE

Jesus Shows Us God – All of Us

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Speak, O Lord”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; 2005, ThankYou Music; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of your holy word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness.

That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;

Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.

Words of power that can never fail, let the truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.

Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises and by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, ‘til Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

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, 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)

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west
and north and south to share at Christ's feast.**

Thank you for Christ's presence in the bread and the cup and in each of us.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.

Go with us to the streets and the screens,

to our places of labor and leisure,

so that whether we are gathered or scattered,

we may be the servant church of the servant Christ,

in whose name we rejoice to pray.

HYMN

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

#537

Verse 1:

**Christian, rise and act your creed;
Let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
Raise your work and life anew.**

Verse 2:

**Hearts around you sink with care;
You can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
Strengthen them to do the right.**

Verse 3:

**Offer others hope and joy,
And God’s worship your employ;
Giving thanks in humble zeal,
Learning all God’s will to feel.**

Verse 4:

**Come then, law divine, and reign:
Faith that doubt assails in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear,
Born in heaven and radiant here.**

#537, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7. | The Parish Choir, 1850

OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time!

See the announcements for some special offering opportunities right now.

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... **You are our inspiration, O Lord. use us and our offerings and our church community to serve the kingdom you inaugurate. Make us good and faithful in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Amen”

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE

Call and Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication, adp. from Spill the Beans, Issue 21, pp. 94 and 70; Prayer of Thanksgiving, UCC Book of Worship, p. 74; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

NEXT SUNDAY Next Sunday, February 14, Pastor Hope is taking the week off. We won't be offering a specific worship through our congregation for that day. Instead, you have a number of options for how you might worship.

You could look back through the worship videos on our Facebook page and engage in a service from a previous week, especially if there was one you've missed recently.

Or, you might ask a friend or family member for the link to their church's online worship and join them.

Or, you might choose a church near or far that you'd be curious to worship with. First Congregational UCC of Crystal Lake streams live at 9:00 AM at <https://www.fcc-cl.org/watch> (and on Facebook at First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake).

Pastor Alex Molozaiy's church, Community Protestant UCC, streams live at 9:30 AM on their Facebook page, Community Protestant Church UCC.

Or go for something very different from our worship and join Trinity UCC of Chicago – one of the largest United Church of Christ congregations and a congregation primarily of African-Americans – for worship. They worship online at 7:30 AM, 11 AM, and 6 PM at www.trinitychicago.org.

I'll vouch that those 3 services will all offer excellent music and a good word for your soul. And, again, there are SO MANY online worship opportunities right now; visiting any of them might give you a fresh perspective on your faith and your home church.

PASTOR HOPE will be out of the office (and generally out of meetings and trying not to deal with emails, etc) from February 9 through 15. She will be available for emergencies.

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS with Ash Wednesday, on February 17. Here are our Lenten plans:

- On Ash Wednesday, the sanctuary will be open for quiet, personal reflection from 3:00-6:30 PM. You should enter through the sanctuary doors and must wear a mask and maintain distance from others who might also be at the church. If a large number have arrived at one time, you might be asked to wait in your vehicle before entering. (Pastor Hope thinks this is unlikely.)

- Ash Wednesday worship will be held online at 7:00 PM on Feb. 17.

- Lenten Devotionals, "Journeying through Lent with Luke: Daily Meditations," by Nancy Koester, are available now. If you are interested, **let Pastor Hope or the church office know ASAP**, or order your own copy on Amazon today. Cost is about \$7/book.

- Lenten Spirit Gatherings – Though soup suppers are a regular part of our Lent, that's not quite possible this year. We can, however, gather – online – and nourish our spirits. We'll gather on Zoom, Wednesdays, 7-8 PM, to talk together about God's grace and how we can receive it and live it more fully in our own lives. You're always welcome to enjoy some soup in the comfort of your own home while we talk.

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.

Genoa City UCC Lenten Lunches Drive thru Lenten Lunch, February 17th 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.**

Soup choices for February 17th are: **Cheesy Potato or Chicken Noodle**

Salad dressing choices are **Red French, Italian, or Ranch**

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.

FINANCIAL REMINDER If you made a change to your pledged giving for 2021, don't forget to adjust your giving amount. Especially if you do automatic giving through your bank, remember to adjust your payments accordingly. Thank you!

CABINET MEETS tomorrow night, Feb 8, at 6:30PM. If you have business the Cabinet should address, contact Pastor Hope or President Charles Kemp.

MEN'S CLUB will probably meet in some way this coming Saturday, Feb 13, in the morning. Stay tuned for further info from Ron Obara.

ONGOING NEWS AND 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. 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!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY is on break this week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY is on break this week.

Our Part in the Story: Devotions on Sunday's Text

Daily Readings

Raising the Widow's Son

Luke 7:1-17

These readings span the story between this Sunday's text and next Sunday's. Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

Monday: The Widow of Zarephath

1 Kings 17:8-16

❖ Why do you think widows feature prominently in miracle stories in the Bible?

Tuesday: The Widow of Zarephath

1 Kings 17:17-24

❖ How is this story hinted at in the story of Jesus raising a widow's son?

Wednesday: Words of Healing

Proverbs 4:20-27

❖ How have God's words brought you healing?

Thursday: God's Healing Help

Psalms 41:1-3

❖ Why does God grant such favor to those who care for the poor?

Friday: Social Laws

Exodus 22:21-24

❖ What modern social standards do you find very important and in line with God's social laws?

Saturday: Sin and Repentance

Isaiah 1:16-20

❖ What evil do you need to let go of? What good do you need to learn?

www.theartoffaith.net

PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 7, 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: Last week's blood drive yielded 26 units for Heartland Blood Bank, exceeding our goal of 20. We rejoice that we were able to help in this good cause.

CONCERNS

Those living with homelessness around us, especially in these life-threatening temperatures

Those struggling with loneliness and sadness

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers and staff; 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)