

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

Our Church at Worship on the Festival of Transfiguration

February 11, 2024

10:00 A.M.

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

Welcome, visitors! Our greeters have welcome bags to share with you, so please make sure they know you are visiting.

Today we welcome The Rev. Molly Carlson to our worship. Rev. Carlson is the Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

*Sharing of joys and concerns*

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Ron Obara

One: From the rising of the sun to its going down

**All: God calls God's people.**

One: From the mountaintop

**All: God's light shines out.**

One: Today we remember the light that illuminated Jesus.

**All: We celebrate his mountain top transfiguration.**

One: Jesus, the light of the world.

**All: Jesus, the light of love.**

One: Jesus, the light of delight!

**All: Jesus, the light that turns doubts to faith.**

One: Let us pray:

God, we worship your majesty in beautiful sanctuaries,  
and in common school gyms,

**All: behind closed doors  
and in open spaces.**

One: Wherever your people gather, you are there,

**All: transfiguring each moment,  
providing fresh revelation,  
enlivening the journey.**

One: Forgive us when we are so consumed with small details

that we fail to see you in all your splendor.

**All: And forgive us when we look for you in grand places and forget you will be found with the lowly ones.**

One: Forgive us and free us to see you afresh in every time and place, sitting beside us in our rest and walking with us on our way.

**All: Transfiguring Lord, transfigure our lives, here in this worship, and in our every day. Amen.**

HYMN “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” #182

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

#### THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.*

SONG RESPONSE “This Little Light of Mine”

**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

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Mark 8:34-9:8

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one

for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 12:18-27

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

MESSAGE

Better Together

The Rev. Molly Carlson

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN

“Many are the Lightbeams”

#163

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

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Lord, receive what we have to give.**

**Not just our money, but also our skills and talents and time.**

**Mix them all with the power of your Spirit,  
and use them for the good of your world.**

**In Jesus’ name, amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Jesus, the Light of the World”

#160

**We will follow the light, beautiful light,  
Come where the dew drops of mercy are bright,  
Shine all around us by day and by night,  
Jesus the light of the world.**

Call to worship & opening prayer from Spill the Beans, Issue 14, p. 105. Music shared under CCLI #1908882

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

**February 18**

**Liturgist**

Ron Obara

Rob Richardson

**Video Director**

Nicki Carter

**Greeter/Usher**

Dick Strahs

**Fellowship Hosts**

Richardson Family

Missions Team

**Sunday School**

Mike Kennedy

Mike Kennedy



This Sunday's altar flowers were donated in celebration of the many loving years of marriage between Charles and Yvonne Kemp, who were married on February 14. We are thankful for the love that they shared and the sweet memories that Charles will always carry.

**AT CHURCH THIS WEEK**

- Cabinet meeting, Monday, 6:30PM, on Zoom
- Refugee apartment set-up, Wednesday AM
- Ash Wednesday supper, Wednesday 6PM
- Ash Wednesday worship, Wednesday 7PM
- Choir practice, Wednesday, following worship

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR SERVICE**

#### **CHANCEL NEWS**

We would like to start having fresh flowers at the altar again! If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, let Jonathan Kaman know at 815-347-5035 or [jbkaman@gmail.com](mailto:jbkaman@gmail.com). Think about sponsoring in celebration or remembrance, individually, with friends or as a family. Arrangements can be made to fit any budget and can be made with your specific thoughts in mind.

Also, if there are any bread bakers, we're hoping someone might be interested in baking our communion bread. Communion is served the first Sunday of each month. Please let Jonathan know if you are interested!

**GIFT CARD ORDERING:** Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive at [www.raiseright.com/brands](http://www.raiseright.com/brands) . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mriapk@gmail.com) or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the upper hallway.

**WIDER MISSION FUND-RAISER:** Wider Missions will sell Joyful Tradition Cake Rolls just in time for Easter. Sales begin Sunday, February 18, when we'll serve samples of these delicious treats.

WHAT ARE JOYFUL TRADITIONS CAKE ROLLS? These cake rolls are made from scratch and are great for holidays and special occasions! They are frozen so you can use when it's convenient for you. Thaw the cake rolls and they are ready to serve! They're available in six delicious flavors: Carrot Cake, Chocolate Crème, Lemon Crème, Pumpkin, Red Velvet, and Strawberry Cream Cheese. The cost is just \$17 each.

Don't forget to let your family and friends know about this delicious opportunity. Delivery is Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you would like to order online please let Karen Wootton know, and she will set it up.

## **FOR CONNECTION**

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY**, which is February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. The Worship and Spiritual Growth Team invites you to a soup supper at 6PM. The meal is provided by Worship and Spiritual Growth. Then we will gather for worship in the sanctuary at 7 for a brief service of reflection with our neighbors from the Genoa City UCC. You don't need to bring anything except yourself, and you're encouraged to come to worship even if you can't be here for dinner.

Throughout Lent, Worship and Spiritual Growth will coordinate soup suppers on Wednesday evenings followed by a time of learning and conversation on the theme of Forgiveness. We'll hear a little from some experts, consider some words from Scripture, and reflect on how we could get more of this very good thing in our own lives. We hope many folks will be able to join in with this life-giving conversation.

## **THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE**

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is blessed to be woven from strands of a vast variety of rich traditions that make up the UCC, both those that represent the historical denominational merger of 1957, and many that have added vibrant threads and emerging patterns to who we are, racially, ethnically, socially, and liturgically. Formed in 1964, The Illinois Conference came into being through a consolidation of the North Illinois Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Conference of Illinois.

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is comprised of roughly the northern half of the state of Illinois, from the border with Wisconsin on the north to a line slightly south of the state capital of Springfield. The Illinois Conference, with roughly 68,000 members and 240 churches is the third largest conference in the UCC. (The Ohio and Connecticut conferences being the first and second in membership.) The churches of the Illinois Conference range from one of the largest UCC congregations in the nation – Trinity UCC in Chicago – to numerous small rural churches far removed from the large urban area of Chicago. Of these many churches roughly 30% are in urban settings, 37% suburban and 33% rural.

The Illinois Conference is currently staffed by the Conference Minister, three Associate Conference Ministers, and a small administrative support staff.

## Reflecting on 14 years

February 7, 2010 was my first Sunday as pastor of The Community Church of Richmond. Baby Henry was 14 weeks old; he's 14 years old now. It wasn't easy starting in both the roles as mother and first-time solo pastor at the same time. I love the church, but I especially wanted to be sure I was doing right by my kids. I wanted them to love the church and for them to know that they are loved by the church. I wanted them to be in a church (or churches, in their case) that were places marked above all by love. I had grown up far away from my grandparents and extended family, but I had always had special adults at church who filled some of those spots in my daily life. Would my kids have that too? Well, from Doris Speaker volunteering to hold the baby through his first Ash Wednesday service to a number of you coming to see Margaret in the school musical last weekend, love and support have surrounded my family and I at this church.

Our time together hasn't just been about my family, but also yours. If you're here today, there's a very good chance that I have buried or baptized a member of your immediate family or welcomed you here as a new member (or all of the above). By my accounting, in the past 14 years, I've done about 52 funerals; a handful of those were for community members, but 42 of them were for people of the church. Turns out I'm not exaggerating when I say I've buried a lot of people at this church. In those same years, we've done about 20 baptisms and baby dedications and about 38 people have joined the church. Wow.

A few years ago, when I reflected on my first eight years as your pastor, I wrote: "I tell stories of you all to my fellow clergy, and every time I am amazed that I was lucky enough to land here. I am humbled and grateful and inspired by the faith and faithfulness you show every day, by the awesome generosity you show to this faith community time and time again... as I describe what I have found in this church during my first 8 years as its pastor, I'm thinking of the words Paul wrote to the Corinthians. He told them: "Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." You, O Church, demonstrate this kind of love to me, to each other, and to our world in God's service. It continues to be my privilege to serve you and receive the blessing of that love."

Those words are still a fitting description of how I feel to be in this place. Thanks for all the love.

Pastor Hope

**PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 11, 2024**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Kathy Smietana (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!

*We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

**JOYS:** Thankful for the beautiful sunny days.  
Thankful for the joyful Celebration of Life for Carl Radebaugh.  
Margaret Molozai's Middle School musical was great.

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Dixmoor water main breaks  
Debbie Franzone's brother-in-law, George  
Theresa Kaman's friend, Molly  
Victims of home invasion, Terri and Ted  
Kim May's friend, Tanya  
Betty Waspi's relatives, the Stanfel family  
Pastor Hope's friend, Ann

**Ongoing Prayers:**

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin  
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik  
Rob Richardson's brother, Dale  
Melissa Jones  
Pastor Hope

**Our Congregational Prayer Partners** this week are Ed and Ruth Zehr.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Huntley and their Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Michael Smith.

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



Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and  
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the  
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some  
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the  
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -  
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with  
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing  
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with  
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

# Many Are the Lightbeams

163

Cyprian of Carthage, "De unitate ecclesiae," 252 C.E.  
 Swedish paraphr. by Anders Frostenson (b. 1906)  
 Transl. David Lewis, 1983

John 8:12; 9:5; 15:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:4-27; Gal. 3:28

Unison

1 Man - y are the light-beams from the one light. Our one  
 2 Man - y are the branch-es of the one tree. Our one  
 3 Man - y are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the  
 4 Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one; ser - vant  
 5 Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one; mem - bers

light is Je - sus. Man - y are the light-beams  
 tree is Je - sus. Man - y are the branch-es  
 gift of Je - sus. Man - y are the gifts given,  
 spir - it of Je - sus. Man - y ways to serve God, the  
 all of Je - sus. Man - y are the mem - bers, the

from the one light; we are one in Christ.  
 of the one tree; we are one in Christ.  
 love is all one; we are one in Christ.  
 Spir - it is one; we are one in Christ.  
 bod - y is one; we are one in Christ.

The text upon which this hymn is based is by a bishop of the early church, Cyprian of Carthage. It was paraphrased from his 333 C.E. work "De unitate ecclesiae" (Of church unity). He was

Tune: LIGHTBEAMS Irr.  
 Olle Widestrand (b. 1906)  
 Arr. David Lewis, 1983

## In Christ There Is No East or West

*I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22**John Oxenham, 1908; alt.  
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;  
 3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;  
 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.  
 One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

*Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.*

Tune: McKEE C.M.  
 African-American melody  
 Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939  
 Alternate setting: ST. PETER