

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

Our Church at Worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 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.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

*Sharing of joys and concerns*

GATHERING SONG "More Light"

**More light, more truth is breaking from your word.**

**More light, more truth,**

**Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.**

Words & music by C. Grundy, © Hand and Soil Music, 2012

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Kazimier

Leader: In private, in public, knowing just what we need,

Jesus comes to us:

the care-giver, the confidant, the healer.

In our pain of body, mind, or soul,

we come to Jesus,

in awe, in hope, in worship.

Let us pray:

God of care and compassion, you pay attention to us,

you are always ready to take care of us.

**People: For your endless love, we thank you.**

Leader: Son of hope and healing, you are always with us;

you never abandon us.

**People: For your unconditional presence, we thank you.**

Leader: Spirit of tenderness, grant us patience and peace

as we journey forward:

through this worship, through this day, through this life.

**People: For the journey, for your guidance, we thank you.**

**May it always be so. Amen.**

**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, children are encouraged to remain with their families for 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

## TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer (we say together)

**Merciful God, we know that you love us  
 and that you call us to fullness of life,  
 but around us and within us  
 we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways.  
 Our successes leave us empty;  
 our progress does not satisfy.  
 Our prosperous land is not  
 the promised land of our longing.  
 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.  
 Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, amen.**

## Quiet Moment

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

**People: Amen. Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you everlasting life.**

Leader: Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Psalm 131

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.  
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD  
from this time on and forevermore.

### The Gospel According to Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him, and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the synagogue leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the synagogue leader, "Do not be afraid; only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the synagogue leader's house, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And

immediately the girl stood up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

MESSAGE Put Yourself in Their Sandals

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" #551

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Holy God, May the gifts we bring  
of ourselves and our money,  
bring healing to those in need  
and hope to those who feel hopeless.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

*The prayer continues...*

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 Remembrance

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Each tray of bread also holds gluten free crackers; we serve grape juice rather than wine so that all people may share in this meal.*

*Please hold the bread and the juice until all are served so we all may partake together.*



## **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 CreamCheese. 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. 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'll enjoy supper at 6:00, start discussion around 6:30, wrap up by 7:15 and choir will rehearse afterwards. We hope many folks will be able to join in with this life-giving conversation.

## **BIBLE BACKGROUND:**

- Today's gospel passage tells two stories of Jesus healing people. Healing stories can be hard stories. Because we have all prayed for someone we loved who was sick and who, in spite of our prayers, did not get better. Because we've all had someone we loved who was near death, and for whom we've pleaded in prayer, but who, in spite of our prayers, died and was not raised back to share this life. It can happen that we hear a story of healing and find ourselves hurt by it as it reminds us of when healing passed us by and left us with our grief. We don't know why some people are healed and some people aren't. We do know that through it all, God is with us.

- Mark tells about these two healings in a storytelling approach that we sometimes refer to as "a Markan sandwich." The story about the little girl who is near death is the "bread;" it comes before and after the story about the woman who's been bleeding for 12 years, which is the "meat." Mark uses this approach more than the other gospels. When he tells two stories this way, we assume that he means for us to hear them together, to let each one impact the meaning we take from the other one. We certainly notice the differences between Jairus – a male, with a name, important in his community, who is used to asking for what he needs and getting it – and the woman of the second story – female, unnamed, unclean because of her medical condition, disconnected from her community, and afraid to ask directly for what she needs. What else do you notice through the sandwich of these stories?

- Through Mark, the opposite of faith isn't doubt; it's fear. I'd say more but I'm out of space.

**PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 4, 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:** Birthdays: James Brossart (2/5).

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Dawn Conley's mom, Diane  
Nicholas Heber  
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 Partner** this week is DeAnn Workmon.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John's U.C.C. Harmony in Hampshire and their Pastor, the Rev. David Bateman.

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



## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;  
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;  
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.

1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;  
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;  
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;  
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.  
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.  
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.  
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

*Refrain*

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

*Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.*

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain  
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

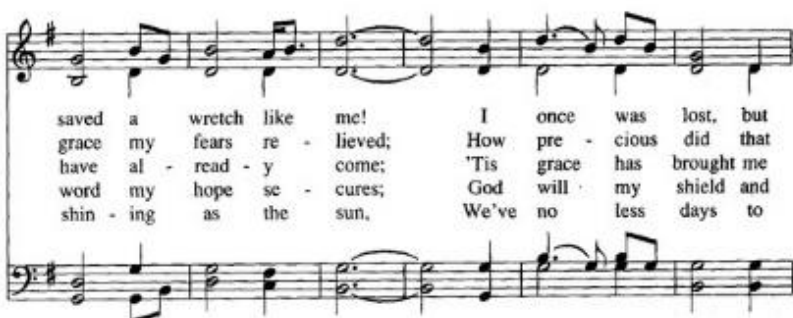
547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

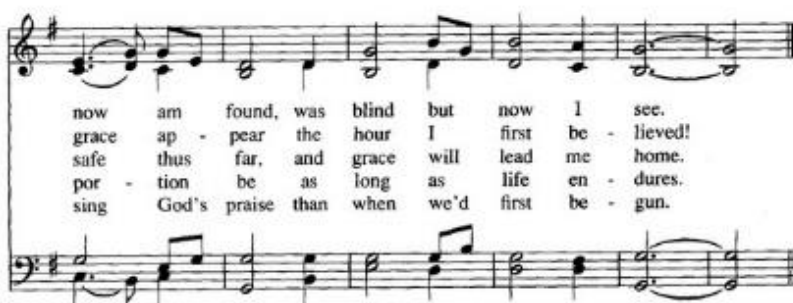
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published *Olney Hymns*, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
 (NEW BRITAIN)  
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900