

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ  
Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 17, 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                      “This Little Light of Mine”                      #524

Verse 1:

**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.**

Verse 2:

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.**

African American Spiritual

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Heber

One: Come to worship with ears ready to listen, ready to hear a homecoming story.  
Come with eyes ready to envision a world of justice and peace.  
Come with voices ready to praise the one who frees us from sin.  
Come, let us worship God with all our hearts and all our minds and all our strength.

Let us pray:

God of intervention and challenge, we are amazed by your readiness  
to upset expectations to reveal the wideness of your love.  
You don't just dwell with we who think of ourselves as “faithful” or “church;”  
your compass of love is directed towards all.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us and expand our sense of your love.**

One: We confess that at times we only look to our inner circle,  
and we use the gospel as a tool to back up our own prejudices and privilege.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us and expand our sense of your love.**

One: We confess we invest a lot of energy in trying to protect ourselves and our dear ones,  
sometimes at the expense of others; we fail to trust you for all that we need.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us and expand our sense of your love.**

One: We confess we can be judging and critical of others  
while we forget our own faults and errors.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us and expand our sense of your love.**

One: Inspire us now with the stories of Jesus.

Surprise again with the power of the Gospel to move us closer and closer to truth.  
We pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Verse 1: **O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemers praise,  
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of Gods’ grace!**

Verse 2: **My gracious Savior and My God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth a broad the honors of your name.**

Verse 3: **Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease  
Is music in the sinners ears, is life, and health and peace!**

Verse 4: **Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, every given  
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.**

#42, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: AZMON CM, Carl G Glaser 1828  
Adapt in L Masons Modern Psalmody 1839

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 146 (Common English Bible)

Praise the Lord!

Let my whole being praise the Lord!

I will praise the Lord with all my life;

I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.

Don’t trust leaders;

don’t trust any human beings—

there’s no saving help with them!

Their breath leaves them,

then they go back to the ground.

On that very same day, their plans die too.

The person whose help is the God of Jacob—

the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God—

is truly happy!

God: the maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

God: who is faithful forever,

who gives justice to people who are oppressed,

who gives bread to people who are starving!

The Lord: who frees prisoners.

The Lord: who makes the blind see.

The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low.

The Lord: who loves the righteous.

The Lord: who protects immigrants,  
who helps orphans and widows,  
but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!  
The Lord will rule forever!  
Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!  
Praise the Lord!

## WORD FOR ALL AGES

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“When It’s All Been Said and Done”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

words and music by Jim Cowen; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535

When it's all been said and done  
There is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for you?  
When it's all been said and done  
All my treasures will mean nothing;  
Only what I have done for love's rewards  
Will stand the test of time.  
Lord, your mercy is so great  
That you look beyond our weakness,  
That you find purest gold in miry clay,  
Making sinners into saints.  
I will always sing your praise  
Here on earth and ever after,  
For you've joined me at my true home.  
When it's all been said and done,  
You're my life when life is gone.

### SCRIPTURE READING     The Gospel according to Luke 4:14-30

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the

heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

MESSAGE      Upset Expectations: What’s Jesus Here to Do?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,  
God has come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be servants in the service of the whole human family,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.  
Amen.

HYMN “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

Verse 1:

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,  
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:  
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today:  
Of Jesus birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.**

Verse 2:

**O sing a song of Nazareth, of days of joy and sun,  
O sing of fragrant flowers breath, and of the sinless One:  
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;  
Now spreads the fame of Jesus name on all the winds that blow.**

Verse 3:

**O sing a song of Galilee of lake and woods and hill,  
Of One who walked upon the sea and bade it's waves be still:  
For though, like waves of Galilee, rough seas of trouble roll,  
When faith has heard the savior's word, falls peace upon the soul.**

Verse 4:

**O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,  
Of One who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away:  
For Christ who died on Calvary is risen from the grave;  
God's sovereign Child, who reconciled, is mighty now to save.**

#51, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Kingsfold CMD, Traditional English Meolody  
Arr. Ralph Vaugh Williams 1906

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 “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.**

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... **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 “Go, Tell it on the Mountain” #154

Refrain: **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

Tune African American Spiritual | Adaot Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992; Arr John W Work II 1907, CCLI License No. 1908882

## POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, and Opening Prayer, Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the beans, Is 21, p. 70; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

## **MAIN NEWS**

**ANNUAL MEETING** The Cabinet has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 24, 2021. We’ll convene the meeting at 11:15 AM following that morning’s worship. This meeting will be held over Zoom with the main business items being to approve the 2021 budget and elect the 2021 officers as well as discuss our visions for 2021 church life. If you have not been a part of a Zoom gathering yet, please let Pastor Hope know so that one of our church helpers can help you get connected to this meeting. You can connect either through a computer/laptop/smart phone/tablet or if none of those work for you, you can call in from a traditional phone and be a part of the discussions as you would be on a phone call.

**PRINTED COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT** are available NOW. Pastor Hope will be at church until NOON TODAY to hand them out if you can come by and pick one up. If you would prefer a digital copy, contact Pastor Hope or Brandi Pletcher ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)).

## **NEW NEWS**

### **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 21<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to sign up or having any questions, please email Kelli at [kellibrossart@gmail.com](mailto: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!

**BINGO!** Want to have some fun with church friends? Save the date to join us for online Bingo. Sunday, January 31, 4 PM. Judy Jooss is coordinating this fellowship event, and we’ll have more details for you soon.

**BLOOD DRIVE** Tuesday, February 2, 3:30-7:30 PM, at the church building. Contact Deann Workmon (678-0011) or Carol Richardson (675-2011) to schedule your appointment. COVID protocols remain in effect for safe blood donations at this time of great need.

**FEBRUARY BOOK DISCUSSION** Pastor Hope has been reading Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times, by Bishop Michael Curry (Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church) and if you need to find some hope in troubling times, she’d like you to join this discussion! The book is widely available for order or purchase (for about \$17-\$20), and is available as a digital read and an audio book as well. It is easy to read and uplifting. If you’d like Pastor Hope to purchase a copy for you, let her know this week.

We’ll discuss on **Zoom at 4:00 on Saturday, Feb 6**. If there is interest and conditions permit, a small group of us could also meet in-person to discuss during the first week of Feb. Contact Pastor Hope if you’re interested.

### **ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** resumes 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.

### **BIBLE NOTES ON LUKE CHAPTER 4**

- About synagogues: The gatherings there weren’t quite like our idea of a worship service. All male adults were permitted to participate both “by reading Scripture and commenting on it. Synagogue services were rather informal, consisting primarily of prayers, reading of Scripture, comments, and gathering alms for the poor. This practice of Judaism apparently arose during the exile when the people could no longer get to the temple in Jerusalem. The village synagogue was not only an assembly place for worship but also a school, a community center, and a place for administering justice.” (From Fred Craddock, “Luke”, Interpretation Series, 1990, p. 61)

- Again, the story about Jesus preaching in Nazareth and the people responding with angry is one that’s told in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But Luke is the only one to put it at the start of Jesus’ ministry. Both Mark and Matthew tell about it later on, closer to the death of John the Baptist and Jesus’ final trip to Jerusalem.

- In case I didn’t say this clearly in the sermon: “Jesus does not go elsewhere [away from Nazareth] because he is rejected; he is rejected because he goes elsewhere.” (Fred Craddock, as above.) The crowd is angry because he tells them that “Yes, he is anointed for God’s mission, but no, that

mission won't be taking place among you all." To add to the insult, he explains his mission has much to do with those who aren't Jewish. They feel angry.

### **PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 17, 2021**

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.*

**JOYS: Birthdays:** Betty Waspi (1/21)

We rejoice with Jim and Kathy Speaker at the news that their daughter, Michelle and her husband, Andrew, are expecting a new baby in early March!

### **CONCERNS**

**Condolences:** We are saddened to learn that Ruth Ann Walters passed away this past Tuesday evening. We surround her husband, Sonny, with our prayers and sympathy. If you'd like to send Sonny a note, his address is 5827 Winamac Lake Dr., Apt 1A, Mishawaka IN 46545.

For our nation and our elected leaders  
Those living with homelessness around us  
Sheryl Vezina's uncle, Lynn  
Those struggling with loneliness and sadness  
Those awaiting test results  
Deann Workmon

### **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:**

Ruthann Walters (Indiana)  
Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico)  
Sharon Mensing (Sterling)  
June Whitney (at home)

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

Sermon at Nazareth

Luke 4:14-30

### **Daily Readings**

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 Year of Jubilee**

**Leviticus 25:1-1**

- ❖ What is the significance of a year of liberty and forgiveness, and the returning of the land back to its original owners? Why do you think this is commanded?

#### **Tuesday: The Widow of Zarephath**

**1 Kings 17:8-24**

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus refers to this story in response to those in the synagogue?

#### **Wednesday: The Healing of Naaman**

**2 Kings 5:1-19**

- ❖ How does Naaman represent those about whom Isaiah wrote and Jesus spoke?

#### **Thursday: The Man with an Unclean Spirit**

**Luke 4:31-37**

- ❖ Who do you know that speaks with authority? How do you respond to their speech?

#### **Friday: Healings at Simon's House**

**Luke 4:38-41**

- ❖ Why is it important that the demons knew who Jesus was?

#### **Saturday: Jesus Preaches in the Synagogues**

**Luke 4:42-44**

- ❖ How would you describe the "good news of the kingdom of God?"

[www.theartoffaith.net](http://www.theartoffaith.net)