

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 29, 2023 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're visiting.

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

*Sharing of joys and concerns*

GATHERING SONG "Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)"

VERSE

**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

**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.**

Words and music by: Brenton Brown | Brian Doerksen, © 2000 Vineyard Songs (Admin. by Vineyard Music  
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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Nicki Carter

One: Way beyond all journeying,  
Truth behind all mystery,  
Life within all living,

**All: We praise you.**

One: Salve for every soreness,  
mender of every brokenness,  
midwife of a better future,

**All: We praise you.**

One: Ground of all being,  
Judge of all nations,  
Conscience of the universe,

**All: We praise you.**

One: Maker, Redeemer,  
Confessor, Companion,  
Befriender, Inspirer,  
God beyond all names,

**All: We praise you.**

One: Because God is good,  
and has intended us to share that goodness,  
we open ourselves  
to nothing less than transformation  
as together we say:

**All: Holy God, holy and mighty,  
Holy and immortal,  
Have mercy on us.**

One: You are the Word behind all words,  
the calm at the core of the storm,  
the energy that sustains creation.  
You are present in the pain behind the tears,  
the laughter in the eyes,  
the yearning in the heart.

**All: All of these you share,  
yet your gift to us is so much more.**

One: So open us up, Lord,  
we whose lives are locked,  
whose thoughts are well-rehearsed,  
whose prayer is predictable.  
Open us up to depths we have not explored,  
truths we have avoided,  
paths we have not followed,  
beauty we have yet to admire.

**All: And open us up to Jesus,  
in whom all things are held together for God  
and for our good.  
Amen.**

## 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 “Wherever Love Is”

**Wherever love is, God is there too  
God is in me, ‘cause I love you  
Wherever love is, God is there too  
God is wherever love is.**

Words & music, Bryan Sirchio. Copyright Crosswind Music

ANTHEM

Men’s Choir

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

### 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 Matthew 6:1-18

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Pray, then, in this way:  
Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

MESSAGE

What Kind of God?

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

TIME OF PRAYER

SONG

“Leaning In” a sung prayer of intention

1. We pray for the lonely ones, knowing that some of us are lonely  
And we pray for the heartbroken ones, knowing that some of us are heartbroken.  
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of love in the world.**
2. We pray for the wounded ones, knowing that some of us are wounded  
And we pray for the regretful ones, knowing that some of us are regretful.  
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of healing in the world.**
3. We pray for the starving ones, knowing that some of us are starving  
And we pray for the imprisoned ones, knowing that some of us are imprisoned.  
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of justice in the world.**
4. We pray for the dying ones knowing that some of us are dying  
And we pray for the newly born ones knowing that some of us are arriving.  
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of love in the world.**  
Amen.

Christopher Grundy, 2018, Used with Permission

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: We are so thankful for the continued financial support of our friends and members!

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

HYMN                    "Grant Us, O God, a Little Space"                    #516

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song                    "We are Marching in the Light of God"

**We are marching in the light of God,**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

*Repeat*

**We are marching – marching, we are marching, o-oooh,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

*Repeat*

Opening prayer, A Wee Worship Book, 5<sup>th</sup> Incarnation, 2015,  
Wild Goose Resource Group, Glasgow, Scotland.  
All music shared under CCLI License #1908882

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR LEARNING**

**BIBLE STUDY** will be Tuesday on Zoom at 1:00. We read and discuss the sermon Scripture for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join in and no special knowledge is needed. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. This Tuesday we'll be discussing Matthew 7.

### **FOR SERVICE**

**BLOOD DRIVE:** We will be hosting a Blood Drive on THIS Tuesday, January 31, from 3:30-7:30 PM. Anyone wishing to make an appointment can contact DeAnn Workmon at 815-678-0011. Walk-ins are also welcome.

**GIFT CARD ORDERING:** Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at [www.raiseright.com/brands](http://www.raiseright.com/brands)

If you give Penny a gift card order on Sunday, your cards are usually here by midweek. 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 office hallway. Thanks!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:** Can you teach Sunday school in February? We'd like one teacher (or teacher team) for February 12, 19, and 26. Our church kids are great fun and we provide you with easy-to-follow lesson plans. Let Jean Valsa ([jericha21@yahoo.com](mailto:jericha21@yahoo.com)) or Pastor Hope know if you can meet this need.

### **FOR CONNECTION**

**FOOD WITH FRIENDS** is back for winter gatherings.

Food With Friends is a fun plan for our church family to host each other in our homes or at church, one household at a time for a simple meal and relaxed conversation. We will get together with one other member or household in our homes, at the church or at a meeting place. Each time we will repast with a different member until, hopefully over time, we have each had a chance to eat and visit one on one with every other member of the church. The "meal" can be as simple as tea and cookies or frozen pizza – the point is to enjoy the time together not to stress over cooking. Get togethers will be casual and last about an hour and a half. Friday or Saturday evenings or Sunday mid-day or evenings are all good choices.

For more information or to sign up, see the flyers available today or talk to Elise Livingston (815-347-2807 or [Elise@EliseLivingston.com](mailto:Elise@EliseLivingston.com)).

**SAVE THE DATE FOR BUNCO!** The Congregational Care Committee is planning a Bunco night for Friday, February 17 at 7 PM. Watch for further details as we get closer to the date.

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

Liturgist	Nicki Carter
Video Director	Nicki Carter
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	The Hebers
Sunday School	Deann Workmon

**Feb 5**

Liturgist	Mike Kennedy
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	The Karches
Communion Prep	

**Feb 12**

Liturgist	Cheryl Heber
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	The Kamans
Sunday School	

**Feb 19**

Liturgist	Kathy Karch
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	
Sunday School	

Are you willing to help with any of these jobs? Let Pastor Hope know.

**Pastor Hope** will be out of the office this Wednesday and Thursday for a couple of retreat days. Office Manager Kathy Smietana will be in the office for her regular hours of 10am to 1pm.

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2023**

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, Kathy Smietana ([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:** Jim Valsa (2/1), Rob Rummel (2/2),  
Thanks for Olivia's new job (Kim)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

The people of Ukraine  
Molly Morris, Kamans' family friend  
Louise Strahs  
Ruth Kaman  
Shootings in California  
Phyllis Kazimier  
Susie McCrae, Jim Speaker's aunt  
Lydia Blanton

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca  
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

**Our Congregational Prayer Partner** this week is Sonny Walters.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. Paul U.C.C. in Barrington, IL and their Pastor, the Rev. Jana Chwalisz.

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

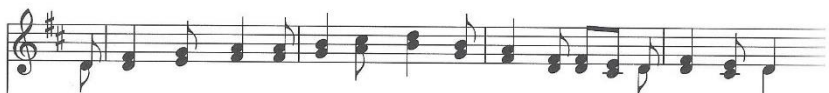


# Sweet Hour of Prayer

*William Walford, 1845; alt.*



1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,  
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.  
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!  
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,  
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,  
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!  
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!  
 I'll cast a-way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!



*Although credited to a different poet when first published in 1845, researchers believe this hymn was written by William Walford. William Bradbury, a highly trained musician, sang under Lowell Mason in Boston and also wrote "Jesus*

Tune: SWEET HOUR L.M.D.  
 William B. Bradbury, 1861

# O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

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John Ellerton, 1870; alt.



- 1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
- 2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
- 3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;
- 4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
- 5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.  
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.  
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.  
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.  
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.



*John Ellerton's hymn, written for a noonday service in a city church, is one of the earliest to speak of science and art as part of God's creation. Thomas Este was a famous English printer and music publisher.*

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD C.M.  
Este's Whole Book of Psalmes, 1592