

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

Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 2, 2022 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. This service is livestreamed to Facebook. While mostly only worship leaders appear on camera, occasionally members of the congregation are captured by our camera. If you have concerns about this, please speak with an usher or staff member.

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship. **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 MUSIC Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Hope Molozaui

GATHERING SONG “Good Christian Men Rejoice” RED Hymnal #92  
Kim May

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Robert Richardson

One: We come to this gathering -

**All: each of us on our own path.**

One: The path might be winding, and the way isn't always clear,

**All: but we've made it this far.**

One: God is walking us home.

**All: What a gift it is not to walk alone.**

One: Let us worship Holy God.

O God, You speak to us in Scripture and in prayers,  
in sunrises and in sunsets, in friends and in strangers,  
in dreams and in songs.

**All: You are speaking to us all the time,  
and so often we miss it.**

One: Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth  
we haven't heard before.

**All: Still our hearts so we can receive what you offer  
with open arms.**

One: We know you are speaking, so we are listening.  
Gratefully, we pray. Amen.

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MESSAGE Home By Another Way

HYMN "I Wonder as I Wander" RED Hymnal #119

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer

One: God of changed plans,  
The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home. And to our amazement, they did just that; they packed their bags and went home by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us, but so often, when change comes, we clench our fists and hold on tighter.

**All: Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.  
Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home.  
Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.  
Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.  
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

One: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there. So hear and believe this good news:  
No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God.

**All: Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation

#### Communion Prayer and 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 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, in our enemies, 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)

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks  
that you have refreshed us at your table  
by granting us the presence of Christ.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SONG RESPONSE      "The First Noel"      RED hymnal #100      vs. 1 & 2

#### Verse 1:

**The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winters night that was so deep.**

**Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

Verse 3:

**They looked up and saw a star shining  
In the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.**

Traditional English Melody | Harm. By John Stainer 1871  
Music CCLI License No. 1908882

THE OFFERING

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

God of new beginnings, we offer these gifts to you today because we love you. The world will tell us to hold on tight to what we have, but like the Magi, we make a different choice. We give from what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to each other, we will see a better world. Take our gifts, o God, and use them for your good. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song                    “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

POSTLUDE

Today's liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

We are still not serving fellowship snacks or coffee, but you are welcome to visit together in the sanctuary after worship.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**BIBLE STUDY** is off this week.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 23. Exact details of the meetings are still being settled, though some Zoom component will surely be offered. Ministry chairpersons and anyone else who reports on behalf of a church group should have typed reports submitted to Brandi in the office by MONDAY, JANUARY 10 ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)).

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** We need a new one as Ruth Zehr is stepping back from this role after several years of good service. This position involves depositing the offerings weekly here at our local bank as well as keeping track of individual's giving and other periodic deposit and record-keeping-related duties. Ruth is happy to give more information and to help train you. This position could perhaps be shared among two church members. If you're possibly interested in helping the church in this way, contact Pastor Hope or Ruth ([rkzehr@aol.com](mailto:rkzehr@aol.com)).

## **BIBLE BACKGROUND:**

This week's gospel story is from Mathew; it's the only time we'll hear from Matthew for a long time.

Remember that each gospel begins in very different ways. Matthew is the only gospel who uses a star and travelers from the East in his nativity story.

He does not mention shepherds or a census or travel to Bethlehem. Instead, as Matthew tells the story, Mary and Joseph already lived in Bethlehem; that's why the baby was born there.

So then, how does Jesus grow up in Nazareth? According to Matthew, Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus flee to Egypt to prevent King Herod's men from finding them as they ransacked the countryside killing young boys.

(Find that story in Matthew 2.)

A few years later, they return to Israel from Egypt and settle in Nazareth.

How do they know to run away and when it's safe to come home? As Matthew tells the story, several main characters have several life-defining dreams. Joseph in particular has a number of significant dreams, including one that tells him not to abandon Mary when she becomes pregnant before they're married; another one that tells him to take the family to Egypt; and a third that tells them when it's time to go home.

**PRAYERS for the WEEK OF January 2, 2022**

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: Birthday:** David Runnfeldt (Jan 6)

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Bob Howe  
Marti Swanson's relative, Noel Hubber  
Debbie Franzone  
Deann Workmon  
Sheryl Vezina  
Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly DeSalvo

**Ongoing Prayers:**

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family  
Julie Leighninger  
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),  
Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi

## \* Good Christian Men, Rejoice

German-Latin Carol, 14th century  
Para. by John M. Neale, 1853

IN DULCI JUBILO Irregular  
German Melody, 14th century

1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, With heart and soul and voice;  
2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, With heart and soul and voice;  
3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, With heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, And he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath oped the heav'n - ly door, And man is bless - ed ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

Luke 2:8-14

17th-century Slovak

Transl. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1969; alt.

Unison

1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year with  
 2 Christ's love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the  
 3 With such a God to lead our way in  
 4 "All glo - ry be to God on high and

joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere; re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, with  
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs; re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, with  
 haz - ard and pros - per - i - ty, what need we fear in  
 peace on earth," the an - gels cry; re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, with

thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
 earth or space in this new year of grace?  
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

*This seventeenth-century New Year's hymn was included in the *Tranoscius*, a collection published by the Czech Lutheran pastor Juraj Tranovský (1591-1637). Translator Jaroslav Vajda is also known for his original hymn texts.*

Tune: SIXTH NIGHT 8.8.8.6

Alfred V. Fedak, 1984

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## I Wonder as I Wander

*Appalachian Carol*  
John Jacob Niles

I WONDER AS I WANDER *Irregular*  
John Jacob Niles  
Harm. by John Ferguson, 1973

Unison Gm Cm

1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, How  
 2. When Mar - y birthed Je - sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, With  
 3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, A  
 4. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, How

Gm D7 Gm

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die For  
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all. -But  
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, Or  
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die For

Gm G

poor ord' - nary peo - ple like you and like I; I  
 high from God's heav - en a star's light did fall, The  
 all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, He  
 poor ord' - nary peo - ple like you and like I; I

Gm Gm Cm

won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
 prom - ise of a - ges it did then re - call.  
 sure - ly could have it, 'cause he was the King.  
 won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

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