

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

Our Church at Worship on The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022 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.
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 Molozaizy

GATHERING SONG “Love Like This”

Kim May

When I am a wasteland
You are the water
When I am the winter
You are the fire that burns

When I am a long night
You are the sunrise
When I am a desert
You are the river that turns
To find me

What have I done to deserve love like this?
What have I done to deserve love like this?

Your voice like a whisper
Breaking the silence
You say there's a treasure
You'll look 'til You find it
You search to find me

What have I done to deserve love like this?
What have I done to deserve love like this?
I cannot earn what You so freely give
What have I done to deserve love like this?

Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world,
 God loves the world, we are the beloved!

May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today, and
 renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations, and your discouragement;
 come with your doubts, your fears, and your questions;

come, to discover again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.

Come, in friendship to God and to each other and to the world;

come to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our
 calling.

Friends of God, let us worship!

And let us pray:

Bountiful God, increase our faith as we gather as your people. Pour forth
 your love upon us and shower us with gifts of the Spirit. As we turn to you,
 grace us this hour with your abounding love, love, peace, and patience.

When we turn back to the world, may we share your generosity with all we
 meet. Amen.

SONG

“To Be Loved This Way”

Verse 1: **If it’s true, You love me as I am,
 and not as I think I should be.
 Then I’m free to face the parts of me,
 I’m tempted to deny.**

Chorus 1: **God, You know all my laughter
 and all of my tears;
 You know where I’ve been and
 You know why I’m here.
 And You know it heals my deepest wounds,
 to be loved this way**

Verse 2: **If it’s true, You love us as we are
 and not as we think we should be.
 Then we’re free to trust the Mystery
 and Love beyond all fear.**

Chorus 2: **God You know all our laughter
 and all of our tears;
 You know where we’ve been
 and You know why we’re here.
 And You know it heals our deepest wounds,
 to be loved this way (repeat)**

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:14-18

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

MESSAGE

Abundant Life: Invited in with Love

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

TIME OF PRAYER

“Leaning In” a sung prayer of intention by Christopher Grundy

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.

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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 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

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "This Little Light of Mine"

#524

**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
POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, adapted from prayer at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/>
Opening prayer, Adapted from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 25, p. 65.
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CHURCH NEWS

BIBLE STUDY: We meet on Zoom each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. No special knowledge is needed!
This Tuesday, we'll be studying John 4:1-42

HYMN/SONG REQUESTS: Please send Pastor Hope your hymn/song requests for the coming weeks.

BLOOD DRIVE will be held at the church on Tuesday, February 1, 3:30-7:30PM. Versiti Blood Centers has been observing careful COVID protocols throughout the pandemic and continues to do so. And there is a GREAT need for blood donors. If you can donate, please save this date and contact Carol Richardson or Deann Workmon to schedule your appointment.

BINGO TIME! Beat the winter blues with some Bingo with church friends. We'll play on Zoom as we did last winter. Sunday, February 6, starting at 4:00. Prizes will be awarded and laughter is guaranteed! Judy Jooss is our intrepid planner for this event. You'll need: a computer or other device to access Zoom; Bingo cards – either your own or those you print at home or those you've asked Judy to deliver to you; Bingo markers – coins, buttons, M&Ms, Cheerios...
When it's time, we'll all log onto the Zoom link. Judy will be our Bingo caller; calls will be displayed on the screen also. We'll mark our cards accordingly.
We'll play several games with some breaks in between for chatting. If you print your own Bingo cards, Judy recommends printing them from: <https://letsplaybingo.io/generator>
If you don't have a printer and need hard copies of Bingo cards, please let Judy know ASAP, so that she can put them in the mail to you.
The Zoom information will be sent out closer to our event.
Other questions? Contact Judy – jdjooss@gmail.com or 262-877-9301.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF January 30, 2022

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, Please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!
We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

JOYS: Birthday: James Valsa (Feb 1), Rob Rummel (Feb 2), James Brossart (Feb 5)

PRAYERS FOR:

Brandi's friend's Kitty & relative Ginger
Debbie Franzone
Deann Workmon
Sheryl Vezina

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling),
Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi

***New Address for Mercedes Ahlgrim

Mercedes Ahlgrim
Sombrillo Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility
1001 Sombrillo Ct
Los Alamos NM 87554