

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the First Sunday after Epiphany
January 8, 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 Molozaia

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG

“Come, Holy Spirit, Come”

**Come Holy Spirit come
Come Holy Spirit come
Come as the fire and burn
Come as the light and reveal
Come as the wind and cleanse**

Convict us...

Show us Your way

Convert us...

Day after day

Consecrate us

Until we're wholly Thine

(Repeat from the beginning one time)

In Christ's precious name we pray

Bryan Sirchio, Crosswind Music, 2009

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Jean Valsa

Leader: As we gather to worship God today,

People: let us prepare a way for Jesus.

Leader: As we answer God's call to repent,

People: let us make a straight path for Christ in our midst.

Leader: As we come before God this day,

**People: may we know ourselves to be God's children,
with whom God may be well-pleased.**

Leader: Let us pray:

Most wonderful God,
foolish and flawed though we are,
we too delight in your beloved Son.

**People: As we gather here in his name,
may the heavens be opened for us,
so that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our common days
with a beauty not of our making.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen!**

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Jesus, the Light of the World”

#160

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 “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.**

Special Music “The Same Love”

Kim May

Paul Baloche and Michael Rossback, Integrity Media, 2012

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 2:7-11

I will tell of the decree of the LORD:

He said to me, “You are my son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage

and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear...

The Prophet Isaiah 42:1

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

The Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-17

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

MESSAGE When the Reign of Heaven Comes Near

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore"

#115
vv. 1-4

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

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

“Arise, Your Light is Come”

#164

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere

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

Call, Spill the Beans, Issue 14, p. 65; Opening prayer, by Bruce Prewer, posted at <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/10BAPTIS.htm>. Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

CHURCH NEWS

FOR LEARNING

BIBLE STUDY will be Tuesday on Zoom at 1:30. 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 4:1-17.

FOR SERVICE

THE CHURCH CABINET meets tomorrow night via Zoom at 7:00.

WE NEED TWO NEW CHURCH OFFICERS: As we start the new year, the Church Cabinet is seeking a church member to serve as Vice President for 2023 (and then probably as President in 2024) and also seeking a new Clerk of the Cabinet. Outgoing VP Elise Livingston can talk to you about that position (as well as the many other church members who have served in that way) and Mary Ann Keil can fill you in on the Clerk's position.

GIVE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND of the United Church of Christ provides annuity supplements, health insurance supplements, emergency grants, and Christmas gift checks to individuals who have long served the church, such as pastors, widows of pastors, and pastors in transition between churches. You can contribute through January 22; just mark "UCC Christmas Fund" on your giving envelope or check memo line.

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

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 or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will be on Sunday, January 22, combined with our 10AM Worship Service. Prior to the meeting, there will be a Potluck Breakfast at 9AM. Please look for the Breakfast Sign Up Sheet this morning.

At the meeting, we will approve a budget for 2023 and elect the officers of the church, as well as share general discussion about the life of the church.

*****All ministry reports should be submitted by their chairperson by this Wednesday, January 11, to the office, preferably by email to office@richmonducc.org.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: You don't need to have children of Sunday school age to be a teacher. We ask teachers to take a month at a time, which is usually 3 or 4 Sunday, and we provide an easy-to-use curriculum. Sign up today.

HOST FELLOWSHIP SNACKS: A simple snack is all that's needed, and coffee-making tutorials are available. Sign-up sheet is available in the lounge today.

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).

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

Liturgist	Jean Valsa
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs
Fellowship Hosts	Penny Kraft
Sunday School	Nicki Carter

Jan 15

Liturgist	Robert Richardson
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Sunday School	Nicki Carter

Jan 22

Video Director
Sunday School

ANNUAL MEETING WITH WORSHIP

Jan 29

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

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

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

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: Birthday: Jessica Kennedy (1/6), Melissa Jones (1/9), Annabelle Ortiz (1/14)

PRAYERS FOR:

Friend of Mike Kennedy, Derek Weiler
Friend of Mike Kennedy, Phyllis Levin
NFL player Damar Hamlin
Phyllis Kazimier
Susie McCrae, Jim Speaker's aunt
Lydia Blanton
The people of Ukraine

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 Partners this week are Caz and Susan Szydlo.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ: St. Matthew U.C.C. in Wheaton and their new Pastor, The Rev. Erin Wyma

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

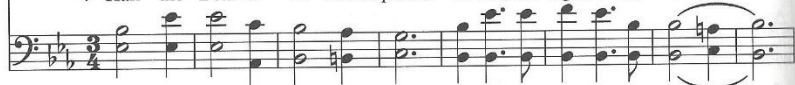
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.



1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;



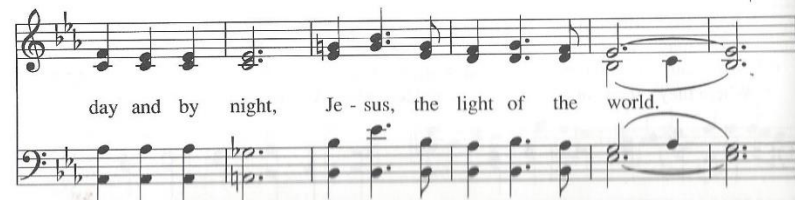
Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

*Refrain*

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the



dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by



day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin

Acc. Jeffrey Badford, 1983

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

115

Charles Coffin, 1736

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8;

Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12

1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the
 2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that
 3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for
 4 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -

earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y
 which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing
 God ap - proach - es day by day; Pre - pare for such a
 va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we

sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!
 in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.
 wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.
 fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.

5 Your hands ex - tend, our pain em - brace,
 lift up the pros - trate, show your face;
 Though we in part your beau - ty know,
 O blos - som forth, your splen - dor show.

6 O One who comes to set us free,
 O Child, to you our song will be,
 With Fa - ther, Spir - it moth - er - ing,
 to you shall praise for - ev - er ring!

Charles Coffin, distinguished scholar and Latin author, was rector of the University of Paris for a time. The hymn, appearing here in a new translation, is from a breviary ordered by the archbishop of Paris to replace ancient Latin hymns with

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW L.M.
 Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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