

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

**Our Church at Worship on The First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 9, 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 Molozaiy
GATHERING SONG “Glory (Let There Be Peace)”	Kim May

[Verse 1]  
One star burns in the darkness  
Shines with a promise  
Emmanuel  
One child born in the stillness  
Living within us  
Emmanuel

[Chorus]  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace  
Let there be peace  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace  
Let it start in me

[Verse 2]  
One voice speaks for the voiceless  
Hope for the hopeless

Emmanuel  
One love brings us together  
Now and forever  
Emmanuel

[Bridge]  
Do not be afraid  
His love is strong  
Enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way  
His love is strong  
Enough to lead us

by CHRIS STEVENS, MATT MAHER and RACHEL TAYLOR POPADIC  
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and Capitol CMG Pu Capitol CMG Publishing and Essential Music Publishing, LLC

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Mike Kennedy

Leader: In the beginning before time, before people,  
before the world began,

**People: God was.**

Leader: Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting the  
people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

**People: God is.**

Leader: In the future, when we have turned to dust and all  
we know has found its fulfillment,

**People: God will be.**

Leader: Not denying the world, but delighting in it,  
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,  
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

**People: God was, God is, God will be.**

Let us pray:

One: In you, gracious God, the widowed find a caring one;  
the orphaned find a parent; the fearful find a friend.

**All: In you, Jesus Christ, we meet our Maker, and our match.**

One: In you, compassionate God, the wounded find a healer;  
the penitent find a pardoner; the burdened find a counselor.

**All: In you, Jesus Christ, we meet our Maker, and our match.**

One: In you, loving God, the miserly find a beggar;  
the despondent find a laughter-maker; the legalists find a rule-breaker.

**All: In you, Jesus Christ, we meet our Maker, and our match.**

One: And if some need to say, "Help me" and some need to say, "Save me,"  
And if some need to say, "Hold me" and if some need to say, "Forgive me,"  
then let these things be said now, in confidence, by us who need them.

*Silent moment*

One: O Christ, in whose heart is both welcome and warning, say to us, do to us, reveal within us the things that will make us whole.

**All: And we will wait; and we will praise you. Amen.**

HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory #436 Kim May

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

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 32:1-7

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

### John 1:19-34

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

MESSAGE      We Can Do what is Ours to Do

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

SONG RESPONSE “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

TIME OF PRAYER

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.**

HYMN

“Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

#49

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 “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

**Worshipping from home?** Right after worship you're invited to join in a Zoom fellowship chat to say hi to some of your fellow worshippers! Join us at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84182098829?pwd=NkVINUxKdmZDS E8rcGNITjdHaVMrdz09> or use Meeting ID 841 8209 8829 and passcode 535978

Call to worship and opening prayer from [A Wee Worship Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Incarnation](#), by Wild Goose Resource Group, p. 25 ("Morning Liturgy A"). Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

## **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 1: 35-51

**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)).

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

**CABINET** meets tomorrow evening at 7:00 on Zoom. Contact Pastor Hope or President Charles Kemp if you have business the Cabinet needs to discuss.

**WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH** meets on Wednesday evening at 7:00 on Zoom. Would you like to be a part of our conversations and planning for worship events and other meaningful gatherings through the year? Ask Pastor Hope to be included in this meeting.

**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! More details will follow soon.

**BLOOD DRIVE** will be held at the church on Tuesday, February 2, 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.

### **WHAT ARE STAR WORDS?**

These are good words chosen at the start of a new year and in the spirit of Epiphany – the story of those wise travelers from the East who followed a star for great distances to find their way to Jesus. We pray that our Star Words might also guide us as we seek to walk with Jesus.

So put it somewhere where you'll see it often – a mirror, a refrigerator, an office wall. Reflect on it. Pray about it. Take a look at the Bible verse that's listed with it. Maybe commit that verse to memory during this year. And then keep a watch out for this word at work in your life this year. Maybe it's something you will experience. Maybe it's something you will help bring to others. Keep watch; stay alert; pray often that God's good words, especially this one, will guide you in the months to come.

**PRAYERS for the WEEK OF January 9, 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:** Melissa Jones (Jan 9), Annabelle Ortiz (Jan 14), Ronnie Obara (Jan 15)

WE REJOICE with the Genoa City UCC at this morning's installation of their pastor, The Rev. Patricia Handley.

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Ode and MaryAnn's daughter, Jenny  
Brandi's friend Kitty, and her relatives Scott and Ginger  
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

## God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
 John Hughes, c. 1907

## Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

49

*Johann C. Schwedler, 1741**Transl. Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1863; alt.**I Cor. 2:2; Gal. 6:14*

1 Ask me what great thing I know that de - lights and stirs me so,  
 2 Who de - feats my fierc-est foes? Who con - soles my sad - dest woes?  
 3 Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be?  
 4 This is that great thing I know; this de - lights and stirs me so:

What the high re - ward I win, whose the name I  
 Who re - vives my faint - ing heart, heal - ing all that  
 Who holds all my days se - cure, in God's heart where  
 Faith in Christ who died to save, Christ who tri - umphed

glo - ry in: Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.  
 grief im - parts? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.  
 love is sure? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.  
 o'er the grave, Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.

*Johann Christoph Schwedler, one of the most powerful preachers of Germany, was author of more than 450 hymns. This hymn was frequently used at funerals in Schwedler's native Silesia.*

Tune: HENDON 7.7.7.7.  
*H. A. César Malan, 1827*