

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

One: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

All: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.

One: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

All: We live into the Light's new wisdom.

One: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

All: We seek to share this wisdom

and to be nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem's cradle.

One: Let us pray: O God of past years and new years,
we recognize all time is in your hands.

We set out on new journeys, expecting twists and turns along the way.

We are prepared for challenges and anticipating great joy.

We set out as believers, trusting that you will journey with us, no matter what.

Help us to travel boldly with faith, and to live expectantly under your Spirit's guidance.

All: Starting now, O Lord, here in worship on this first Sunday of a new year, we promise to listen faithfully for your voice and to follow your direction. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

#434

Verse 1:

**All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
The hand that shaped the rose has formed the crystals of the snow,
Has sent the silver frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.**

Verse 2:

**O'er brilliant fields of sparkling snow the radiant morns unfold;
The solemn splendors of the night burn brightly through the cold.
Life mounts in every pulsing vein, love deepens round the hearth,
And clearer sounds the angel hymn, "Good will to all on earth."**

Verse 3:

**O you from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
Yourself the splendid vision seen in crystal and in rose,
The passing days with grace declare and passing nights proclaim,
In ever changing words of light, the wonder of your name.**

Tune: Forest Green C.M.D. | Frances W. Wile 1910 alt | Traditional English Melody

Verse 3:

**If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.**

Verse 4:

**I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for die
For poor ord'nary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

John Jacob Niles Harm. By John Ferguson1973|Appalachian Carol

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In response to your infinite love, O God, we rejoice to give thanks at all times and in all places, to the One who created order out of chaos, who penetrated the night of sin with the light of the world, and whose light cannot be overcome by human resistance. Thank you for sending a star to guide the wise to Christ, and for all the signs and witnesses in every generation that lead us to your Christ. Thank you that Christ lived among sinners, preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to those shackled by ignorance, prejudice, and injustice, and brought life to light by living the one true life.

We bless you, God, for the gifts you have lavishly given us, though undeserving: for new definitions of power and wisdom, for removing the distance caused by sin, for calling all people to

discipleship and community, for sending courage to those who struggle for justice and peace, for your presence in trial and rejoicing.

Mighty God, we worship and praise you. With magi and shepherds, apostles and martyrs, we sing your glory, and for the love of Christ, we pray together, **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.**



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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, 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)

**Generous God,
in this celebration we have looked back to the past, to what is done and gone.
With Jesus in our midst, we look forward now to the future.
Let neither the past nor the present, nor the future,
neither joys nor sorrows ever separate us from him.
Let your Son be the center of our lives,
and the bond that binds us to you and to one another,
in faith, hope and lasting love.
Go forward with us through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONG RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, you heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

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

Though we rarely see each other in person these days, our church is still: providing worship; providing Sunday school for our church kids; connecting members with each other; supporting neighbors in need, locally and further away. We believe those things are parts of God’s calling for us in this place and we can do them because of steady financial support.

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... Generous God, You have provided a world that meets our every need, and invited us to co-create with You. Receive our offerings. Bless them so they might help create Your kingdom here on earth, even now. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Go, Tell it on the Mountain” #154

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

Tune African American Spiritual | Adaot Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992
Arr John W Work II 1907, CCLI License No. 1908882

POSTLUDE

Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING The Cabinet has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 24, 2021. We’ll convene the meeting at 11:15 AM following that morning’s worship. This meeting will be held over Zoom with the main business items being to approve the 2021 budget and elect the 2021 officers as well as discuss our hoped-for visions for 2021 church life. If you have not been a part of a Zoom gathering yet, please let Pastor Hope know so that one of our church helpers can help you get connected to this meeting. You can connect either through a computer/laptop/smart phone/tablet or if none of those work for you, you can call in from a traditional phone and be a part of the discussions as you would be on a phone call.

If you are a Ministry Chairperson or otherwise responsible for a group within the church, please have your written annual report to Brandi by **January 10**. We prefer that you email those reports to her at office@richmonducc.org.

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY resumes Tuesday at 2PM open to everyone to read and discuss the Bible passage for the coming Sunday. Tell Pastor Hope if you want the Zoom link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY is back at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 3, 2021

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: We rejoice with the Richardson family at the births of twin girls, Catherine Jean and Lena Marie, born to Andrew and Sarah Richardson on Dec 22. Both girls are currently healthy, though quite small, so we hold them in prayer for the weeks to come.

Birthdays: David Runnfeldt (1/6)

CONCERNS

Sympathy: Our condolences go out to Sheryl Vezina on the passing of her Uncle Lee on Dec 26th.

Those awaiting test results
Carol Sligting's great-grandson, Aiden
Deann Workmon

Ongoing Prayers:

Sheryl Vezina's uncle Lynn
School teachers, staff, and administrators; school children and their parents, including college students
Those whose household relationships are strained
Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic
Healthcare workers, especially Cheryl Kazimier's niece and Rob Rummel's daughter-in-law
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:

Ruthann Walters (Indiana)
Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico)
Sharon Mensing (Sterling)
June Whitney (at home)