

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
July 18, 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. If you can't join promptly at 10:00, the video will be available later as well.

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

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaai

SONG OF PRAISE “Agnes Dei”

Kim May and Penny Kraft

Chorus:

Holy, holy are you, Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

You are holy, holy are you, Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

Words and Music by Michael W. Smith, CCLI 1908882

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

One: Come now to listen for the voice of God.

All: God will speak peace to God's people.

One: But don't be surprised if God's peace comes with judgment. Don't expect God to whitewash the truth.

All: God will speak peace to God's people.

One: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear God; surely God's glory may dwell in our land.

All: God will speak peace to God's people.

One: God's glory isn't in wealth or power; God glory is found in compassion and justice.

Come now to listen for the voice of God.

All: God will speak peace to God's people.

One: Let us pray. Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life.

Jesus promised, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I;” let that promise be fulfilled in us.

Make us a joyful company of your people, so that with your faithful in every place and time, we may praise and honor you, O God Most High. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 11:29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ...

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

HYMN "God Reigns o'er All the Earth" #21, verses 1 & 2

Verse 1:
**God reigns o'er all the earth!
Green hills and valleys low
The farms and towns in golds and browns
God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth!
Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbows hues, reds, yellows, blues,
of streams and country lanes.**

Verse 2:
**God reigns o'er human life!
Through youth and aging years,
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,
in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life!
Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,
We see God's reigning will.**

#21, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Trad. English Melody, Lyrics, Jane Parker Huber, 1981

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to Luke 12:49-56

Jesus said: "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

MESSAGE No Peace????

Rev. Kathy Karch

HYMN "When Peace Like a River" #438
Verse 1:
**When peace, like a river, upholds me each day
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 2:
**Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
let this bless'd assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And has paid life and blood for my soul:**

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 3:
**My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part, but in whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 4:
**O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,**

“even so” - it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

#438, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Philip P. Bliss 1876, Lyrics: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

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.

SONG RESPONSE “Doxology”

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

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 (we say together)

For the life you have offered, for the vision you have granted, for the ministry of Jesus Christ that empowers our witness, thank you, O God.

May our offerings extend the reach of Christ's Church.

By our giving, may our commitment to your work be deepened. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “When the Lord's in You”

**When the Lord's in you, and the Lord's in me,
there's a bridge between our spirits,
wherever we may be.
'Til we meet again, let us hold the Mystery
of the Lord in you and me.**

(Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI)

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, Chalice Worship, #109; Opening Prayer, from UCC Book of Worship, Service for Word and Sacrament II; Prayer of Dedication, Lavon Baylor, Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C, 1994, p. 99; Music copyright, CCLI 1908882

NEW NEWS

WELCOME TO AMERICA PACK We are again collecting a Welcome Pack for a refugee family arriving soon. There are many families coming this year and not enough organizations willing to take on a family...we would like to do our part to welcome the stranger in Christ's name! The Wider Mission Ministry is asking you to sign up for your items online, purchase them, and bring them to church on or before July 25th. Our Ministry will go through everything on July 27th, so all items must be gathered by then. The link to the sign-up sheet is [Comm Ch of Richmond Welcome Pack Sign Up — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)

This year Exodus is asking that all items be new. If you have some 'like new' items that you would like to donate, please call Carol (815- 675-2011), and we'll make a decision at that time. Please do your best to complete this Welcome Pack and put a smile on the faces of our refugee family. They are only allowed one suitcase per person, so they are in need of everything on the list. If you have any questions, give Carol a call. Many thanks for your kind donations! - The Wider Mission Ministry

UCC CLOSING WORSHIP

Today at 5 PM, you're invited to attend, virtually, the closing worship of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. It will livestream at 5:00 at <https://www.generalsynod.org/worship-services-july-18/> Why would you want to? General Synod is the national gathering of our denomination; this online worship experience gives you a chance to glimpse some of the breadth and depth of the UCC, to see people from churches like ours and churches quite different from ours, united in worship, all from the comfort of your living room. Pastor Hope encourages you to tune in.

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL for Member-in-Discernment, Quinn Rosenthal. This is a final and important step for a person who has been moving toward ordained ministry, when they are interviewed by 'us', the people of the church. It requires a quorum of representatives from at least 11 Fox Valley UCC churches, and will be held next Sunday, July 25, at 6 PM via Zoom. We need to register ahead of time to attend using the link https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuGorDwsH9cypPsYk2rLrIL_mIRC-mGJ You can also download and read Quinn's ordination paper at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11iMZ7HWulFJ-eI7pUP0XW-WoCODWnRSyDUUnJMeOFvt0/edit> Talk to Pastor Hope if you're interested or have questions!

COMING EVENTS

BEEF ROAST is coming soon – August 14! This event will be drive-thru like last year, though we'll also have some picnic tables outside available for seating. Pre-ordering will be available from August 1st thru 12th on the website or by calling or texting 815-388-6353. You are strongly encouraged to pre-order. (Remember that we RAN OUT of beef last year.) Prices for this year are:
Meal: \$15
Meal with 8 oz Pickles: \$18
Bulk Beef: \$10 a lb
We need a few new willing helpers this year – ranging from outdoor jobs of directing traffic, taking and handing out orders to people in their cars, and cashiers, to indoor jobs of filling food containers and getting everything packed up. Tell Kathy Speaker if you'd like to help! (kspeaker77@gmail.com or 815-678-4320)
You can help publicize the event by inviting friends and by sharing the event on Facebook. (It's on the top of our church Facebook page.)

INDOOR WORSHIP The Church Cabinet has set August 22 as our expected date to return to indoor worship together! We'll be pulling everything together to continue sharing worship online while making our space open to all again. In the meantime, we will continue with outdoor/online worship weekly. We do ask anyone who is unvaccinated or particularly vulnerable to continue to wear your mask as you mingle before and after worship. Thank you!

As we get ready to regather inside, we need to give the building some TLC, including tidying and cleaning spaces like the sanctuary pews, children's areas, kitchen areas, and entryways. Let Pastor Hope know when you're willing to help and she'll get our efforts coordinated.

GIFT CARDS Penny Kraft regularly orders gift cards on our behalf, and the church gets a percentage of the cost of those cards. There is a HUGE variety of gift cards available, from specialty stores to gas stations and grocery stores. Jewel, Walmart, Meijer, Marathon Gas, SO MANY RESTAURANTS, department stores, etc. Find the full list of retailers at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/shopwithscrip-retailers> . Contact Penny with your order any time by calling/texting her at 815-236- 6172 or emailing her at mriapk@gmail.com.

Prayers for July 18, 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

Birthdays: Tiana Obara (July 22), Phoebe Valsa (July 22)

CONCERNS

Prayers For:

The community of Surfside, FL
All those affected by severe weather of great rain and extreme heat
Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family
Bob Krueger
Deann Workmon
Family members struggling with health concerns

Ongoing Prayers: 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), June Whitney (at home)