

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

**Our Church at Worship on the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time
July 25, 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 Molozaiy

SONG OF PRAISE “Blessed Be Your Name”

Kim May and Penny Kraft

Chorus:

**Every blessing you pour out, I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your glorious name.**

Words and Music by Matt and Beth Redman, CCLI 1908882

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

One: I tell you this:

It is a wonderful thing when members of the family
live together in love and peace.
They shall be like trees planted beside flowing rivers.

May the church be one, just as Christ and God are one,
that Christ may be glorified in us.
They shall yield good fruit in its season,
and their leaf shall never wither.

The grace, mercy and peace, of the Lord Jesus,
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

King of all the earth, Creator of the universe, Holy Triune God, From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

Your law brings life, O Lord, and we meditate on it day and night;

All: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

One: You are a rich stream of living waters, and we long to soak ourselves in you;

All: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

One: You bring forth fruit in due season and establish the work of our hands;

All: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

One: Who is like our God, the One whose ways are full of life?

All: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

One: This is our God, the Holy One!

We come before God with thanksgiving
and offer the sacrifice of praise! Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 11:32-12:2 Common English Bible

“What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. ... They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. The world didn’t deserve them. ...

All these people didn’t receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. God provided something better for us so they wouldn’t be made perfect without us.

So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God’s throne.”

HYMN “Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult” #172

Verse 1:

**Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult
of our life’s wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying “Christians, follow me.”**

Verse 2:

**As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus’ sake.**

Verse 3:

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, “Christian, love me more.”**

Verse 4:

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”**

Verse 5:

**Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.**

#172, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; Tune: William H Jude 1887

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to Luke 6:17-31

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

“And I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

MESSAGE Who Really wants a Level Playing Field?

HYMN “Be Now My Vision” #451

Verse 1:

**Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping your presence my light.**

Verse 2:

**Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be.**

Verse 3:

**Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,
You, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

Verse 4:

**Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heavens Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

#451, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Ancient Irish Text; Tune: Traditional Irish Melody

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)

Call to Worship, by Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>; Opening Prayer from a longer prayer posted on <http://oratiocontemplativa.wordpress.com/2013/06/14/prayers-for-proper-18-year-c-rcl-closest-to-september-7/>;
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. We seem to need just a handful more items. The Wider Mission Ministry will go through everything on July 27th, so all items must be gathered by then. Pastor Hope can let you know exactly which ones after worship or else sign up on the sheet at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/7570197831472220114/false#/invitation> Refugee families are only allowed one suitcase per person, so they need everything on the list. If you have any questions, give Carol Richardson a call. Many thanks for your kind donations!

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 today 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!

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 25, 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: Bob Jooss (July 26)

Tiana Obara heads soon to Kalamazoo to begin working with Pfizer

CONCERNS

Prayers For:

Ode Keil's nephew, Brett Scharringhausen

Ina Obara's father

Olympians and all those working to support the Tokyo Olympics

The people of Afghanistan, Cuba, and Haiti

All those affected by severe weather of great rain, extreme heat, fires, and floods, in this country and around the world

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family

Bob Krueger

Deann Workmon

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), Bob Krueger