

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
June 13, 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 Molozaiky

SONG OF PRAISE “Shout to the North”

Kim May and Penny Kraft

CHORUS:

**Shout to the north and the south.
Sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.**

Martin Smith ©1995 Curious? Music UK

OPENING WORDS *inspired by Psalm 107*

Ronnie Obara

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us whom God has redeemed say so;

let us whom God has gathered shout our praise!

**All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love!
We praise God in the faithful assembly!**

One: Some wandered in desert wastelands, hungry and thirsty.
Like them, we've cried out and God has delivered us.

**All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love!
We praise God in the faithful assembly!**

One: Some sat in darkness and gloom, prisoners in misery and
chains.

Like them, we've cried out and God has delivered us.

**All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love!
We praise God in the faithful assembly!**

One: Some were sick, in body, mind, or spirit, and drew near to the gates of death.

Like them, we've cried out and God has delivered us.

**All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love!
We praise God in the faithful assembly!**

One: God turns deserts into pools of water,
and blesses fields for the hungry.

God makes homes for the exiles and gathers the faithful.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let us pray:

For this space and these faces, thank you, God.

For those who continue to worship with us from other spaces, thank you.

For stories of Scripture and stories of our lives
and the chance for them to come together as one story,
thank you.

Bless us as we worship today.

Heal, renew, and encourage us again.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

#4, verses 1 & 4

Verse 1:

**Joyful, Joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.**

Verse 4:

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
Reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
Faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music lead us onward
In the triumph song of life.**

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Paul's Letter to Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who is against us? God who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not also with the Son give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. So who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

But no, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SONG

"Leaning In"

Christopher Grundy

We pray for the lonely ones, knowing that some of us are lonely,
And we pray for the heartbroken ones, knowing that some of us are heartbroken.

A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of love in the world.

We pray for the wounded ones, knowing that some of us are wounded,

And we pray for the regretful ones, knowing that some of us are regretful.

A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of healing in the world.

We pray for the starving ones, knowing that some of us are starving

And we pray for the imprisoned ones, knowing that some of us are imprisoned.

A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of justice in the world.

We pray for the dying ones knowing that some of us are dying,

And we pray for the newly born ones knowing that some of us are arriving.

A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention joining in your way of love in the world. Amen.

Used by permission

SCRIPTURE READING

The Acts of the Apostles 15:1-1-22, 30-31 (CEB)

The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, "Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. God, who knows people's deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus."

The entire assembly fell quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God did among the Gentiles through their activity. When Barnabas and Paul also fell silent, James responded, "Fellow believers, listen to me. Simon reported how, in his kindness, God came to the Gentiles in the first place, to raise up from them a people of God. The prophets' words agree with this; as it is written,

After this I will return, and I will rebuild David's fallen tent; I will rebuild what has been torn down. I will restore it so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who belong to me. The Lord says this, the one who does these things known from earliest times.

Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn't create problems for Gentiles who turn to God. Instead, we should write a letter, telling them to avoid the pollution associated with idols, sexual immorality, eating meat from strangled animals, and consuming blood. After all, Moses has been proclaimed in every city for a long time, and is read aloud every Sabbath in every synagogue."

The apostles and the elders, along with the entire church, agreed to send some delegates chosen from among themselves to Antioch, together with Paul and Barnabas. They selected Judas Barsabbas and Silas, who were leaders among the brothers and sisters....

When Barnabas, Paul, and the delegates were sent on their way, they went down to Antioch. They gathered the believers and delivered the letter. The people read it, delighted with its encouraging message.

MESSAGE

Finding Ourselves at Home Again

HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:**

**Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

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

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

THANK YOU for joining us for worship!

You may leave your offerings in the plastic buckets near where you picked up your bulletin.

You may place checks for gift card orders in those same buckets, but please mark GIFT CARDS in your memo line.

While we're thrilled to see each other, please refrain from hugs, handshakes, and such physical greetings for the time being.

We hope you can join us again next Sunday for worship on the lawn!

COMING EVENTS

CABINET will meet tomorrow, June 14, at 7 PM.

BEEF ROAST is coming soon – August 14!

We expect to heavily feature drive-thru service like we did last year.

We hope to also offer some outdoor seating.

Meanwhile, THANKS for all your donations of pickle jars. We have enough for this year!

GIFT CARDS Penny Kraft regularly orders gift cards on our behalf, and the church gets a percentage of the cost of those cards. As you might be starting to get out into the world more often again, remember that 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.

COME TO OUTDOOR WORSHIP!

- June 13 and June 20, weather-permitting.
- Bring your own lawn chair and your mask.
- We'll gather on the west lawn – NOT where we've had outdoor worship before but on the lawn closest to West Ave, near the entrance to the office wing of the building.
- We won't have the large tent that we've used before, but it is acceptable to bring your hat, your sunglasses, your sun parasol, etc.
- Wear your mask from your car until everyone is settled at the start of worship. Once everyone is seated and worship begins, Pastor Hope will give us permission to unmask (if we want to) while we remain seated during worship. We will put our masks on again at the end of worship before we move around again.
- Take yourself/your household to one of the marked spaces on the lawn. Greet your church friends from a distance, but please don't hug or handshake for now.
- Try not to go into the building. It will be unlocked, and restrooms are available, but we want as little traffic into the building as possible.
- We do still plan to livestream worship on these days, so you can attend online if you're more comfortable that way.

If you have questions, reach out to Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org or 224-522-5309).

Pastor Hope will be on vacation June 27 and July 4, and we'll worship online for those two weeks. Afterwards, we'll take what we learned from our first weeks of outdoor worship, and let you know our next plans for in-person gatherings.

Prayers for June 13, 2021

Names are added to our prayer list when shared in worship, shared with Pastor Hope or by contacting the church office (office@richmonducc.org). We leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

JOYS

Birthdays: A.J. Connerty (June 7), Marti Swanson (June 8), Rod Brossart (June 9), Charles Kemp (June 11), Penny Kraft (June 13), Alaina Valsa (June 18)

We give thanks for the 22 units of blood received at our blood drive this past Tuesday. We are thankful to all the donors and volunteers, and pray for those who will receive those blood donations.

CONCERNS

Prayers For:

Kim May

Family members struggling with cancer and other health concerns

For Afghanistan

For Israel and Palestine, and the peace of Jerusalem

Carol Sligting's great-grandson, Aiden

Deann Workmon

Julie Leighninger

Ongoing Prayers:

Those whose household relationships are strained

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:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling),

June Whitney (at home)