

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time
June 20, 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

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

SONG OF PRAISE “Forevermore” Kim May and Penny Kraft

Chorus:

**There's no other God before You;
There is no other one to replace You.
You are forevermore.
And there's no other God I call to;
You are the One I cling to.
You are forevermore.**

Aaron Shust / Jason Ingram / Brett Rutledge / Justin McKay; © 2008 Bridge Building Music

OPENING WORDS *inspired by Psalm 96* Jean Valsa

One: O sing to the Lord a new song!

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Tell every day about the ways God has saved you!

**All: The gods we build are idols, but God is Lord of
heaven and earth.**

One: Sing to God's honor and majesty;
admire God's strength and beauty.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor!

**All: The gods we build are idols, but God is Lord of
heaven and earth.**

One: Join all creation in praising God!

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and the sea creatures praise.
Let the field exult God, and everything in it join in!

All: The gods we build are idols, but God is Lord of heaven and earth.

One: God is coming to judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

O sing to the Lord a new song!

Tell every day about the ways God has saved you!

Let us pray:

For this life and all its blessings, for joys great and simple, for gifts and powers more than we deserve, we thank you, God.

For the many moments we have taken for granted: a hug, a handshake, a smile across the room; a deep breath, a joyful crowd, voices raised in song, we thank you, God.

Through your grace, let us see our blessings with new eyes, so we may always have a grateful heart, and a will to serve you through all our days.

In Jesus's name we pray, amen.

HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #42

Verse 1: **O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!**

Verse 2: **My gracious Savior and My God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**

Verse 3: **Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!**

Verse 4:

**Glory to God, and love and praise be ever,
ever given
by all the saints in every age, the church in
earth and heaven.**

#42, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Carl G Glaser 1828, Lyrics: Charles Wesley, 1740

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS from Luke about the Kingdom of God

Jesus said to those who wanted him to stay in one place: “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.” (Luke 4:43)

Later Jesus said to the 70 people he had chosen, “Go on your way...Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ (Luke 10:3, 8-9)

Still later, Jesus said, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.” (Luke 13:18-19)

Once he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” (Luke 17:20-21)

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” (Luke 18:15-17)
And yet when Jesus saw the rich man who had followed the law of Moses, but didn’t want to part with his many possessions, Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! (Luke 18:24)

The Acts of the Apostles 19:23-34

About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way. A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans. These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, "Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business. You also see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost the whole of Asia this Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be scorned, and she will be deprived of her majesty that brought all Asia and the world to worship her."

When they heard this, they were enraged and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The city was filled with the confusion; and people rushed together to the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's travel companions. Paul wished to go into the crowd, but the disciples would not let him; even some officials of the province of Asia, who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theater. Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. Some of the crowd gave instructions to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed forward. And Alexander motioned for silence and tried to make a defense before the people. But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours all of them shouted in unison, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

MESSAGE

Finding Ourselves along The Way

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

#18

Verse 1:

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

Verse 2:

**Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.**

Verse 3:

**When I reach the River Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.**

#18, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: John Hughes, 1907, Lyrics: William Williams, 1745

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.

NEW NEWS

UPCOMING WORSHIP PLANS

Pastor Hope will be on vacation from this Tuesday, June 22, through July 5.

Next Sunday, June 27, worship will be prerecorded and will broadcast at our regular worship time on Facebook. It will feature some beloved choir members singing some beloved hymns.

Sunday, July 4, there will not be a new Community Church service broadcast. You are encouraged to worship with a recent service that you might have missed (All our services through pandemic times are available on our Facebook page under "Videos") or to attend worship with a friend or neighbor, online or in-person.

July 11th, when Pastor Hope is back from vacation, we'll return to our hybrid outdoor/online worship.

UPDATES FROM CHURCH CABINET

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.

COMING EVENTS

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. 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.

PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives. Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers are absent: grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.

Amen.

- Rev. Chuck Currie

Prayers for June 20, 2021

If you have prayers to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org). *We leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

JOYS

Birthdays: Jean Valsa (June 21), June Whitney (June 26),
George Zimmermann (June 26)

CONCERNS

Prayers For:

Kim May

Deann Workmon

Family members struggling with health concerns

For Israel and Palestine, and the peace of Jerusalem

Carol Sligting's great-grandson, Aiden

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)