

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 6, 2021 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 will share communion during this worship time. You're invited to get something to break – bread, cracker, cookie, muffin – and something to drink and have them with you as we worship.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING SONG

“Come to Me”

Verse 1: **All who are weary, all who are burdened down
Come to me, come to me, come to me
And I will give you rest.**

Repeat verse 1

Verse 2: **My yoke is easy, my burden feels so light
Come to me, come to me, come to me
And I will give you rest**

Repeat verse 2

Repeat verse 1 one time

Tag: **Come to me, come to me, come to me.
And I will give you rest**

Words and Music by: Christopher Grundy, CCLI 1908882

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

(inspired by Psalm 42)

Kathy Speaker

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for the living God.

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

One: Come, if your tears have been your only food:

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

One: Come, if you remember better days, when you gathered with joy to praise God:

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

One: Come, if you hunger and if you thirst:

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

One: Come, if you trust God's love is steadfast with you:

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

One: Come, if your soul is downcast within you and you hunger for hope:

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

One: Let us pray:
God of our hearts...here we are!
We've gathered with thirsty hearts, praying that your Word will satisfy us.
We come with aching hearts, praying for good news to comfort us.
We come with overflowing hearts, praying for a chance to share your love.
We come and we trust that you, who know our hearts and hear our prayers, will be with us in our worship. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #23

Verse 1:

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.**

Verse 2:

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the E-ternal is most wonder- fully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

#23, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: In Babilone, 1906, Lyrics, Frederick William Faber, 1854

SCRIPTURE READING The Prophet Isaiah 56:1-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil.

Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and do not let the eunuch say, "I am just a dry tree."

For thus says the Lord:

To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

.... Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered."

SPECIAL MUSIC "A New Hallelujah" Kim May & Penny Kraft

Verse 1

Can you hear? There's a new song
breaking out from the children of freedom.
Every race and every nation,
Sing it out, sing a new hallelujah.

Chorus

Arise, Let the church arise
Let love reach to the other side
Alive, come alive; let the song arise

Verse 2

Let us sing love to the nations,
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us.
Make it known and make Him famous.
Sing it out, sing to the new hallelujah.

Verse 3

All the world sings a new song,
Reaching out with the new hallelujah.
Every son and every daughter,
Everyone sing a new hallelujah.

Chorus

Arise, Let the church arise
Let love reach to the other side
Alive, come alive; let the song arise

...

Words and music by Michael W. Smith, Paul Baloche, and Debbie Smith ; 2008 © WORD Music, LLC; CCLI 1908882

SCRIPTURE READING The Acts of the Apostles 8:26-39

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

MESSAGE Finding Ourselves Converted: Curiosity & Questions

SONG RESPONSE "Come, Holy Spirit, Come"

Come Holy Spirit come, come Holy Spirit come.

Come as the fire and burn,

come as the light and reveal,

come as the wind and cleanse

Convict us, show us Your way;

Convert us, day after day.

Consecrate us, until we're wholly Thine.

Repeat from the beginning

In Christ's precious name we pray.

Words and Music by Bryan Sirchio, Crosswinds Music, used with permission.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (we pray together)

Merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

The prayer continues...

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.

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, in our enemies, 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)

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west
and north and south to share at Christ's feast.
Thank you for Christ's presence in the bread and the cup and in each of us.
By your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.
Go with us to the streets and the screens,
to our places of labor and leisure,
so that whether we are gathered or scattered,
we may be the servant church of the servant Christ,
in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table" #332, verses 1 & 3

Verse 1

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

Verse 3

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

#332 New Century Hymnal; Tune: from The Sacred Harp, 1844; Lyrics Carl Daw, 1989

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 – You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church... **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 my giving, may my 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, HEAM, insp by Psalm 42; Opening Prayer, Carol Penner; posted on <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/> (found at re:worship); Confession, UCC Book of Worship, Order for Word & Sacrament I; Prayer of Dedication, Lavon Baylor, Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C, 1994, p. 99; Music copyright, CCLI 1908882

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 small 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.

Pastor Hope's Extra Thoughts on Re-Gathering (as previously seen in last weekend's email updates):

I definitely believe it's time for us to experiment with in-person re-gathering, and, from where I sit, it also is a lot to think about. Some of you will think we're putting too many guidelines in place; some of you will think we're not doing enough; I trust you all will bear with those who see things differently.

Many of you have asked how many of our church are vaccinated, as well as asking if we're going to separate vaccinated people from unvaccinated people in our gatherings. I can say unofficially that roughly 75% of adults who regularly attend worship are vaccinated or on their way to being so (which puts our little group at a significantly higher rate than McHenry

or Walworth counties overall). But we will always have to assume that any worship gathering is a mixed gathering of people with and without the vaccine, if for no other reason than that once we hold public worship, anyone can come join us - and we won't be asking them about their vaccine status. Part of our decision-making as the church is to care for the most vulnerable among us, which on this issue will be those who are unvaccinated. So, all of this and more is being taken into consideration as create our expectations for outdoor worship.

As for separate seating for people with and without the vaccine, that's not in our plans.

It's my hope and expectation that outdoor worship will be its own wonderful time for us to worship together, and also preparation to get us ready to worship together inside.

Finally, just like we'll have a range of opinions on our guidelines, we'll also have a range of emotions as we gather. Some of you have been out and about, with or without the vaccine, for many months now; some have remained quite isolated. Some of us bring concerns for our children or others in our regular circle. Some of you have been at the church building, to attend or help lead worship or for other reasons; some of you haven't been there in a very long time. We've all felt this storm in different ways and we will bring the effects of that with us when we gather for worship. Again, for the sake of Christ who calls us to be one, we will bear with one another in our differences, and we will seek to care for the most vulnerable among us. We will move slowly, forward, together, by the grace of God.

COMING EVENTS

BLOOD DRIVE The next Blood Drive at our church is THIS TUESDAY, June 8, from 3:30-7:30. Contact Carol Richardson (815-675-2011) for appointment or just walk-in on Tuesday!

WIDER MISSIONS meets before the blood drive at 1:30 on Tuesday in the church basement.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB will meet this coming Saturday, June 12. There will be plenty to do with installing a few air conditioners upstairs and making sure things are ready for outdoor worship the next day. Stay tuned for more details from Ron Obara.

CABINET will meet a week from tomorrow, June 14, at 7 PM.

BIBLE STUDY in on summer break for now. Stay tuned for occasional study and discussion opportunities in the coming weeks.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

BEEF ROAST August 14. We expect to heavily feature drive-thru service like we did last year. We hope to also offer some outdoor seating.

Meanwhile, we need donations of new, 8-ounce, glass canning jars for the Beef Roast pickles! Keep an eye out at places like WalMart for those jars. You can drop them off at the church. If you have jars that have been used for pickles in years past, you can also bring those back to church and they can be sanitized and re-used.

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Penny Kraft regularly places orders of 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. Though the percentages might seem small, small bits can add up to a meaningful contribution to the church, and are especially great with places that you're going to shop at anyway. (Remember, you get the full value of the gift card; the church gets our donation when you purchase the card, whether you lose, spend, or whatever.) Find the full list of participating 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 JUNE 6, 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: Mary Ann Bartsch (June 2)

CONCERNS

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

Bill Haase's daughter, Barb, facing health concerns

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers, staff, administrators; school children and their parents, including college students

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)