

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:00 A.M.

*Our Mission: To be an inviting, caring faith community
connecting with Christ.*

Welcome, visitors! Our greeters have welcome bags to share with you, so please make sure they know you're visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG "As the Deer"

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.**

Martin Nystrom, © 1984 Universal Music--Brentwood-Benson Publishing
(ASCAP)

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Ron Obara

Leader: Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot
be shaken, let us give thanks and worship God.
What do we expect to happen here today?
Same old, same old?
Do we remember that Christ has promised to
return?
Do we expect him to be with us here today?
Are we ready if he is here?

People: **As we come to worship the living God,
may we rekindle the flame of hopeful
expectation.**

Leader: Let us pray:
Eternal Lamplighter, when we have run out of
patience and find ourselves unprepared,
may you rekindle the light of faith in us,
and reorient us towards the way of the kingdom.

**People: May we find a different rhythm to life
that lives in the waiting and anticipation.**

Leader: Lamplighter, let us see beyond the gathering
darkness and relight the hope that the promises will
be fulfilled, and that death can be overcome with the
dawn.

**People: Lamplighter, hear us as we pray
and wait
and long
for this season
to slip away.
So be it. Amen.**

HYMN “Ask Me What Great Thing I Know” #49

THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at
this time. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the
remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.*

SONG RESPONSE “Lord, Make Me More Holy” verse 1

**Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy.
Lord, make me more holy until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.**

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 43:3-4

O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.
Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

The Gospel according to Matthew 24:3-8, 36-39 and 25:1-13

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs....

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man....

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

MESSAGE Seeking the Kingdom When the World is Ending

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Broadway: We proclaim Jesus Christ,
the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.

West: In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
We acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the church,
the Head over all things,
the beginning of a new creation.

Broadway: We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things
which he will bring.

West: We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards the promised goal;
along the way, Christ feeds us with word and sacrament,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.

Broadway: We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity
which is both Christ's gift and his will.

West: We affirm that every member of the church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died,
and we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.**

“We Are a Pilgrim People”

~ from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia

HYMN

“O Day of God, Draw Near”

#611

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

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.

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**God of all ages, we set our hope in you.
May we serve you with these offerings
and with our efforts to encourage each other for ministry.
May your rule shape our lives so that we share
the joy of your kingdom in this midst of these lives.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

*HYMN

“On a Hill Far Away”

#195

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back**

Call, Opening prayer, STB, Issue 15, p.
Dedication, adp from Baylor, Year A, proper 27
Affirmation from David Beswick at <http://www.beswick.info/>
Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: is an offering that makes the love of Christ real around the world for those who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Your gift today will help strengthen struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells. We will receive this offering TODAY.

PALM SUNDAY SUPER FELLOWSHIP AND EGG DYING: The Youth Education Ministry invites everyone to join us downstairs after worship on Palm Sunday, April 2, for an extended fellowship time and the dying to Easter eggs.

To help this event happen, we also invite you to contribute a spring snack to our 'super fellowship.'

Contact Jean Valsa for more information (jericha21@yahoo.com)

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at www.raiseright.com/brands

If you give Penny a gift card order on Sunday, your cards are usually here by midweek. Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

HOST FELLOWSHIP SNACKS: A simple snack is all that's needed, and coffee-making tutorials are available. Sign-up sheet is available in the lounge today. Hosts are needed for the spring.

FOR LEARNING

BIBLE STUDY will be Tuesday on Zoom at 1:00. We read and discuss the sermon Scripture for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join in and no special knowledge is needed. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. This Tuesday we'll be discussing Matthew 25.

FOR CONNECTION

LENT IS HERE

This Wednesday is the last our Lenten Soup & Spirit gatherings. We'll gather for soup supper at 6:00 and start our conversation on the Sermon on the Mount at about 6:30. We'll wrap up by 7:30 and the choir will rehearse afterwards.

You can sign up to donate a pot of soup or some bread in the lounge.

As we draw near to Holy Week and Easter, here are some events to keep in mind:

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday Worship

Super Fellowship Time downstairs with Easter Egg Dying for all ages

Thursday, April 6,

Maundy Thursday

6 PM Potluck Supper followed by worship at 7 PM

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

Worship opportunity at Genoa City UCC, details to come soon

Sunday, April 9

Easter Day

Celebration Worship at 10 AM

Sunday, April 30

Cantata Sunday featuring the

chancel choir

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY meets tomorrow evening, March 20, on Zoom at 7:00. Anyone is welcome who'd like to share in conversation about our worship life. Contact Pastor Hope for the Zoom information.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP We will be receiving new members in April. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Community Church at this time, talk to Pastor Hope.

UPDATES FROM CABINET

The Church Cabinet met last Monday; here are a few updates from our discussion.

- Vacation Bible School will be back this year, to be held June 12-16, in the mornings. Talk to Jean Valsa if you can help in any way.
- The Beef Roast will be held on August 12; we are thinking about extra revenue options to add to the Beef Roast day, such as some silent auction items to sell.

- We will be working to expand our team of folks who can run the worship livestream and help with other technology needs during worship before Pastor Hope's sabbatical starts.
- Pastor Hope is working on details for this year's sabbatical. It will probably be June, July, and August. Stay tuned for more details soon.
- We ended February with about \$22,000 in the general fund, and roughly \$126,000 in our combined, non-endowment funds. We are continuing to draw frequently from our larger savings accounts. We are counting on the Tea and the Plant Sale to be great fundraisers for the spring.

ATTENTION GMAIL USERS: Gmail is rejecting many messages from Pastor Hope and the church office because it is designating them as spam. We're looking into what we can do about that on our end. In the meantime, if you use a gmail address, please take these steps to help ensure you receive messages from church: Add office@richmonducc.org and pastorhope@richmonducc.org to your contacts. Check your spam folder for any messages from those addresses; if you find any, click on the message and then click "report not spam." Those steps should help. Also, if you happen to have IT knowledge and know anything about setting up SPF or DKIM, talk to Pastor Hope.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY WITH PHOTOS:

We will be updating the church directory this spring with new photos of our friends and members. George Zimmermann will be available after worship on March 26 and April 9, 16 & 23 to take your pictures, in our own "photo studio" in the church basement. A sign-up sheet is available to help with our planning, though it's not required that you sign up in advance. When you have your photo taken, you will also check and update your directory information. To help us continue to get to know each other better, we'll also ask you to provide a little bit about your interests, activities, secret talents, or other bits of information that might help us connect. If you are unable to be at church on any of the above days, contact George at george.r.zimmermann@gmail.com for other arrangements.

Fox Valley Association
Congregations and Clergy:

You are cordially invited to the

Ecclesiastical Council

for

Duane Lahti

at

First Congregational UCC

461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

(Virtual options for joining below)

on

Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 4 PM

The Fox Valley Association has convened an Ecclesiastical Council to discern the readiness for ministry of **Duane Lahti**.

An Ecclesiastical Council is the opportunity for local churches in a region to hear from a candidate for ordination, ask questions, and affirm the individual's call to ordained ministry. Fox Valley Clergy and Laity are invited and encouraged to attend to support Duane during this pivotal moment in his journey of discernment.

To attend online visit <https://boxcast.tv/view/duane-lahti-ecclesiastical-council-mdnwpqrvvrm06qt9www8> at the time of the council. Questions or comments during the council can be added to the chat box in the live stream or texted to Pastor Emily Davis at 815-219-4903.

We need a quorum of Fox Valley churches represented to conduct this special event, and you have a wonderful opportunity to hear from and speak with someone newly heading into the vocation of ordained ministry.

Talk with Pastor Hope if you're curious about attending in-person or online.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

Liturgist	Ron Obara
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	Nicki Carter
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher

March 26

Liturgist	Elise Livingston
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	Bill & Sheryl Vezina
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher

April 2 Palm Sunday

Liturgist	Jean Valsa
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	
Communion Prep	Kathy Karch

April 9 Easter

Liturgist	Robert Richardson
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	

Are you willing to help with any of these jobs? Let Pastor Hope know.

SPRING BREAK SCHEDULE:

Kathy will be out of the office this week.

Pastor Hope will be on vacation from Saturday, 3/25, until Friday, 3/31.

Elise Livingston will be our lay preacher on March 26.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF MARCH 19, 2023

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Kathy Smietana (office@richmonducc.org).
THANKS!

We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

JOYS: Birthdays- Margot Foley (3/23)

PRAYERS FOR:

California weather
Kathy Speaker (travel)
Jim Speaker's oldest cousin who passed away
Nicki Carter (grieving)
Kelly DeSalvo, Dawn Conley's daughter
Billy Stubbs, friend of Rob & Carol Richardson
DeAnn Workmon
Linda, Kathy K's friend

Ongoing Prayers:

Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca
Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Mike and Donna Anderson.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Downers Grove and their Pastors, the Rev. Scott Oberle (Senior) and the Rev. Michelle McNamara (Transitional).

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Betty Waspi

10th Annual
*Hats & Frills Grand High
Tea*



Sunday, the 7th day of May, 2023

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Live Entertainment

Featuring "Janet O'Mahony" & "Diane Dew"
Performing R&B, Blues, Jazz and Folk Classics

Maravela's 4 S. Washington St Ingleside, IL **Cost: \$60**

*To purchase your ticket or for more information call Yvonne at 815-675-6844
or text Karen Wootton @815-271-0056*

This Annual Fund-Raiser is sponsored by the Community Church of Richmond to help support PADS, Refugee resettlement, local food pantries, Vacation Bible School, Senior Services and much more.

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

49

*Johann C. Schwedler, 1741**Transl. Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1863; alt.**I Cor. 2:2; Gal. 6:14*

1 Ask me what great thing I know that de - lights and stirs me so,
 2 Who de - feats my fierc-est foes? Who con - soles my sad - dest woes?
 3 Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be?
 4 This is that great thing I know; this de - lights and stirs me so:

What the high re - ward I win, whose the name I
 Who re - vives my faint - ing heart, heal - ing all that
 Who holds all my days se - cure, in God's heart where
 Faith in Christ who died to save, Christ who tri - umphed

glo - ry in: Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.
 grief im - parts? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.
 love is sure? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.
 o'er the grave, Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.

Johann Christoph Schwedler, one of the most powerful preachers of Germany, was author of more than 450 hymns. This hymn was frequently used at funerals in Schwedler's native Silesia.

Tune: HENDON 7.1.7.7.7.
H. A. César Malan, 1827

O Day of God, Draw Near

611

R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15

1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

Come with your time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and social reformer who taught at McGill University, Montreal, and at Princeton University. A minister in the United Church of

Tune: ST, MICHAEL. S.M.
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551
Adapt. William Crook, 1846

On a Hill Far Away

(The Old Rugged Cross)

Heb. 12:2; James 1:12

George Bennard, 1913; alt.

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its

em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the
 won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God calls me some-day to my

dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.
 suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ey - er I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

After serving as an officer in the Salvation Army, George Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the midst of his travels through the Midwest conducting revival services, he was inspired to write this hymn.

Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS Irr.
 George Bennard, 1913

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged
cross, the
cross,
old rug - ged cross, and ex - change it some - day for a crown.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.