

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 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 George Zimmermann

Leader: Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot
be shaken, let us give thanks and worship God.
Older and younger,

People: God makes us welcome.

Leader: Whatever color of skin,

People: God makes us welcome.

Leader: Whatever team we support,

People: God makes us welcome.

Leader: Always here or occasional visitor,

People: God makes us welcome.

Leader: Early arrivers or last-minute folk,

People: God makes us welcome.

Leader: Whoever we are, God makes us welcome
so that we can welcome others in God's love.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us pray:

Lord God, in your presence we find no discrimination;
You are equally generous to all.

In your presence, we find no holding back;
You are extravagantly gracious to all.

So we gather, knowing ourselves loved, regarded,
and valued equally.

**People: God, forgive us when we fail to treat others
as we believe we should be treated.**

**Forgive us when we hoard what we see as ours,
and we squander gifts you have given.**

**Forgive us and make us generous;
not just to those who are like us,
but especially to those who are different.**

Quiet moment for reflection

Leader: In our worship, may we know we are freed from all sin
and renewed in our call to go to love and forgive others
in the name of our God who loves, forgives, and frees:

**People: We will trust God's forgiveness and share God's love.
Amen.**

HYMN

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"

#551

THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at
this time. Afterwards, they can remain with their families for 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Charles Kemp

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 16:5-8

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

The Gospel according to Matthew 19:23- 20:16

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Then Peter said in reply, “Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my name’s sake will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call

the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

MESSAGE Seeking the Kingdom in Grace Beyond Fairness

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN “As We Gather at Your Table” #332

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

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.

Words of Remembering
Prayer of Consecration
We Share the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**O God, As we give these offerings, remind us
that we are called as equal workers in Your Kingdom.
Encourage us to work with equal enthusiasm
with old-timers and new faces,
as we remember that whenever we serve in Your name
we help nurture Your creation.
In the name of Jesus, amen.**

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

#547

Verses 1, 2 & 3

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, Chalice Worship, #40; Opening prayer and Dedication, Spill the Beans, Issue
15. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

EASTER FLOWERS: Available to order now through March 12th. Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths are available for \$18 each to beautify the sanctuary for Easter and take home afterwards. Order forms available at church or contact Carol Sligting via email: sligting@sbcglobal.net or by cell: 847-764-8016.

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. Envelopes for this offering will be collected on March 19.

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 later in March.

YOUTH EDUCATION MINISTRY will meet after worship TODAY. All are welcome to join us as we plan for Sunday school, family fun outings, and Vacation Bible School! Talk to Jean Valsa for more information.

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 22.

FOR CONNECTION
LENT IS HERE

Lent is the season of preparation before the celebration of Easter day. It began on Ash Wednesday, February 22 this year. Throughout March, we'll meet on Wednesday evenings for Soup & Spirit gatherings. We'll need donations of about 3-4 homemade soups and a couple of breads each week as well as someone to do some simple hosting duties.

After those suppers, we'll spend a little time in discussion about The Sermon on the Mount. No special resources are needed but Pastor Hope will be using the book "The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven" by Amy-Jill Levine to guide conversation. We will wrap up no later than 7:30.

Choir will rehearse afterwards.

You're welcome to join us for just dinner, or just discussion, or the whole evening; come once or twice or throughout Lent. These evenings have been meaningful to many of us over the years and we look forward to sharing in them again this year.

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 5 and 26, and April 2, 9, and 16 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.

SPRING TEA – Save the Date!

The 10th Spring Tea will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 7, at Maravela’s Banquet Center in Fox Lake. The afternoon will include a tea service, a silent auction, lovely hats and accessories for purchase, good entertainment, and the joyful company of friends together. Save the date, invite your friends, and start saving your dollars so you can join us at this delightful event. Tickets will be available for purchase before long. For more details, Yvonne Kemp would love to tell you more.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

March 5

Liturgist	George Zimmermann
Video Director	Nicki Carter
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs
Fellowship Hosts	Tedder Family
Communion Prep	Cheryl Kazimier

March 12

Liturgist	Cheryl Kazimier
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	Penny Kraft
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher

March 19

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

March 26

Liturgist	Elise Livingston
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher

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

REFLECTION

Those who have been here forever
and those who have joined more recently
have equal status in the eyes of God.
Those who spend all their time here
and those who pop in and out as the notion takes them
are equally loved and blessed by God.
For God's love and regard are not rewards to be earned,
but gifts freely given.
No holds barred.
No conditions attached.
That knowledge is at once freeing and frustrating,
reassuring and incredible,
grounding and earth shattering.
What response might we have?
Nothing more complicated than to
enjoy and share the gift of love
and let God take care of the rest.

Spill the Beans, p. 24.

MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF UPDATE

In the fall of 2021, the Illinois Conference held a ten-week Medical Debt Relief campaign, encouraging our churches and individual members of the Conference to raise funds to help abolish debt through [RIP Medical Debt](#) - an organization the United Church of Christ has partnered with more than a dozen times to abolish debt across the nation. The UCC is RIP's largest faith-based partner. Over the course of these ten weeks, we in the Illinois Conference were able to raise over \$45,000! At the end of 2022, RIP made three buys, culminating in a total of \$5,993,142.72 debt abolished for 6,513 families across Illinois!

What good work we can do together. Thanks to all who contributed to this good cause.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF MARCH 5, 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- Ava Connerty (3/6); Valerie Connerty (3/9); Thankful for a visit from the Jones family.

PRAYERS FOR:

Billy Stubbs, friend of Rob & Carol Richardson
Bill Vezina
DeAnn Workmon
Linda, Kathy K's friend
Jake, Marti's grandson
Phyllis Kazimier
Yvonne Kemp

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 Partner this week is Aidan Zimmermann.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Crystal Lake and their Pastors, the Rev. Eric Fistler (Senior) and the Rev. Emily Davis (Associate).

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

DeAnn is at:
Wauconda Care Center
176 Thomas CT. Rm 516
Wauconda, IL 60084
847-516-5551
Cards and calls are much appreciated!

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Soup & Spirit 6pm	2	3	4
5 Youth Ed. Meeting	6	7 1pm Bible Study	8 Soup & Spirit 6pm	9 Pastor at COM mtg. 9-noon	10	11 Men's Club Breakfast 9am
12 Easter Flower Orders Due Daylight Savings Time Ends	13 Cabinet Meeting 7pm In person	14 1pm Bible Study	15 Pastor at Cluster Meeting 9:30-11:30 Soup & Spirit 6pm	16	17 	18
19 One Great Hour of Sharing	20	21 1pm Bible Study   Kathy	22 Soup & Spirit 6pm Out	23 Of the	24 Office	25 Pastor Hope's Spring Break thru 3/31
26	27	28 1:30pm Wider Missions Meeting	29	30	31	

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.

1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
There no more will en-vy bind us nor will pride our peace de-destroy,

teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-tory known.
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
The Sacred Harp, 1844
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992


Words Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900