

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

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 are visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG "Above All"

**Verse 1: Above all powers, above all kings;
Above all nature and all created things.
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.**

**Verse 2: Above all kingdoms, above all thrones;
Above all wonders the world has ever known.
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure what You're worth.**

**CHORUS: Crucified, laid behind the stone.
You lived to die rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground;
You took the fall and thought of me, above all**

Words and Music: Lenny LeBlanc | Paul Baloché
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CALL TO WORSHIP

George Zimmermann

One: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**All: Lent calls us to journey
to the place where God covenants with us.**

One: Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

**All: Lent calls us to practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

One: Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

**All: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

One: Lent calls us to journey with God.

**All: Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray:

God of generosity and openness,
We come as workers in your kingdom harvest

**All: to sing our praises,
to relieve our burdens,
and to share in communion with each other.**

One: We praise you for the part you seek us to play,

**All: for the ministries into which you invite us,
for the situations that allow us to share good news
through deed and word**

One: And for the encouragement your Spirit brings
as we grow in faith, in understanding
and in our ability to serve.

**All: Forgive us, Lord of generosity and openness,
when we fail to live up to your expectations
and crush the generosity you extend to us.**

One: May we recognize once more the worth we have
in your eyes,

that we are valued beyond any worldly value,

**All: and in return, may we know your true worth
as the King of all kings,
the Lord of lords, and the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

HYMN

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

#400

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

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 “Love, love, love your God”

Love, love, love your God,

The commandment’s word is love:

Love your neighbor as yourself, for God is love.

Traditional – in the public domain

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 80:8-13

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;
it sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.
Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

Mark 12:1-17

Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?”

When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

MESSAGE Who Owns the Road We Travel?

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal maker of life:
we believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal maker of love.

**All: We believe, O Lord and God of all people,
that you are the creator of the high heavens,
that you are the creator of the skies above,
that you are the creator of the oceans below.**

One: We believe, O Lord and God of all people,
that you are the one who created our souls
and set their course;
you are the one who created our bodies
from dust and from ashes;
you gave to our bodies their breath
and to our souls their possession.

**All: God, bless to us our bodies.
God, bless to us our souls.
God, bless to us our lives.
God, bless to us our belief. Amen.**

HYMN "Come, We Who Love God's Name"

#382

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.

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**As we give our gifts today,
may we recognize their true worth,
in service to the God who is worthy of praise and worship.
May we dedicate ourselves to God's service,
today and tomorrow. Amen.**

*HYMN "On a Hill Far Away" (The Old Rugged Cross) #195

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

CLOSING RESPONSES

One: The cross,

All: We will take it.

One: The bread,

All: We will break it.

One: The pain,

All: We will bear it.

One: The joy,

All: We will share it.

One: The Gospel,

All: We will live it.

One: The love,

All: We will give it.

Sending Song "We are One in the Spirit"

Verse:

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

Chorus:

**And they'll know we are Christians By our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

WORDS AND MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, © 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI License No. 1908882

Call by Thom Shuman, on <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>; opening prayer and dedication from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 18, p. 24-25. Closing responses, by the Iona Community in *Stages on the Way: Worship Resources and reading for Lent, Holy Week and Easter*, 2000, p. 37. Affirmation from *A Wee Worship Book: 4th Incarnation, Wild Goose Worship Group*, 1999. Music shared under CCLI #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

March 17

Liturgist	George Zimmermann	Nicki Carter
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	Blake Beck	Nicki Carter
Sunday School	Jean Valsa	Jean Valsa

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Cabinet meeting (hybrid zoom/in person), Monday at 6:30.
- Lenten Soup & Spirit Gathering, Wednesday 6-7PM
- Choir practice, Wednesday, 7:15
- Next Sunday, Worship & Spiritual Growth Mtg, 11:15 AM

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, the United Church of Christ and several other Christian denominations work with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. On average, 95 cents of every dollar given to OGHS goes directly to mission programming! It's Time to Share. Make your offerings to this good work today through Easter by using the special giving envelopes in the sanctuary or otherwise marking your donation "One Great Hour of Sharing."

Did you know that the U.C.C. has been collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing since 1949? This year marks the 75th anniversary! Imagine how the offering from 1949 has impacted individuals, families and communities all around the world. In 75 years, that offering has altered the lives of 3 generations. That is the church of Christ at its best!

WIDER MISSION FUND-RAISER: TODAY is the last day to order Joyful Tradition Cake Rolls! Be sure to get your order in to Karen Wootton, or talk to her about ordering online. Delivery is Friday, March 22nd from 4:30 to 5:30 PM.

FOR CONNECTION

“FORGIVENESS, LIGHT, LOVE, AND SOUP” – Join us at 6pm this Wednesday for the last of our midweek gatherings this Lenten season. No need to bring anything, and the evening wraps up at 7pm.

EASTER FLOWERS: TODAY is the last day to order your lilies, daffodils and tulips! Order forms available at church or contact Carol Sligting via email: sligting@sbcglobal.net or by cell: 847-764-8016.

HOLY WEEK, MARCH 24-31

Palm Sunday, March 24:

Super Fellowship and Egg Dying will follow the Palm Sunday worship service on March 24 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to dye a few eggs and enjoy some time with each other.

Maunday Thursday, March 28:

There will be a potluck at 6pm (look for a sign-up sheet soon) followed by a worship service at 7pm.

Easter Sunday, March 31:

Christ is Risen! Join us for a celebration at the 10am worship service.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- Plant Sale, Saturday, May 11, 9am-4pm
- Spring Tea, Sunday, May 19, 1pm-4pm, Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF March 10, 2024

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: Phyllis Kazimier (3/12).

Charles Kemp's niece, Monica, returning to school.
A.J. and Caitlyn Causevic are expecting a baby!

PRAYERS FOR:

Blanton family
Mundelein tornado refugees
Barb Haase
All those whose lives are affected by addiction
Trish's sister-in-law
Jan Revelle's grandson
Newly arriving refugee students and their new teachers
Bill Haase
Kansas City shooting victims and families
Mike Anderson's relative, Gail
Henry Eickelberg
Debbie Franzone's sister, Pam, and family

Ongoing Prayers:

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik
Rob Richardson's brother, Dale
Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Jake and Lydia Blanton, Annabelle and Ryder.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Ivanhoe Congregational U.C.C. in Mundelein and their Pastor, Reverend Doctor Kristopher Hewitt.

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

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7

Latin, 6th-8th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.
 St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
 3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain

chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
 peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
 Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, *Urbs beata Jerusalem*, based on passages from *Ephesians*, *1 Peter*, and *Revelation*. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry T. Smart, 1867
 Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Come, We Who Love God's Name

Ps. 48:1-2; Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 4:2-11

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

Refrain by Robert Lowry, 1867; alt.

1 Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known; To -
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God; But
 3 God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glo - ry sown; Ce -
 4 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets Be -
 5 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry; We're

geth - er God's great love pro - claim, to - geth - er God's great love pro -
 we our thanks and praise will bring, but we our thanks and praise will
 les - tial fruits on earth - ly ground, ce - les - tial fruits on earth - ly
 fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, be - fore we reach the heav - en - ly
 trav - eling through Em - man - uel's ground, we're trav - eling through Em - man - uel's

claim, and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
 bring for love so deep and broad, for love so deep and broad.
 ground from faith and hope have grown, from faith and hope have grown.
 fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 ground to great - er worlds on high, to great - er worlds on high.

And thus sur-round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.

Isaac Watts' joyous hymn was a favorite of the early American singing schools and was set to a variety of fuguing tunes. This gospel tune by Baptist preacher Robert Lowry incorporates a

Tune: MARCHING TO ZION S.M. with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1867

Alternate setting: ST. THOMAS

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Refrain

We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful Zi - on; We're

We're march-ing on to Zi - on,

march-ing on-ward to Zi - on, the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

Zi - on, Zi - on, the

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

LENT

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