

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ  
Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 14, 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 GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

GATHERING SONG           **“My Life is in You, Lord”**

Chorus

**My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord;  
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.  
My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord;  
My hope is in You Lord, in You, it's in You.**

Verse

**I will praise You with all of my life;  
I will praise You with all of my strength.  
With all of my life, with all of my strength,  
All of my hope is in You.**

Repeat Chorus

Tag   **It's in You, it's in You. In You.**

Words and Music by Daniel Gardner © 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music ; CCLI License No. 1908882

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Nicki Carter

One: What does the Lord require of you?

**All: To do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God.**

One: What does God command of us?

**All: To love God with all our heart,  
and all our soul,  
and all our mind,  
and all our strength,  
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**All: But to presence, and abundance,  
and grace in our struggle.**

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us,  
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

We know that you love us and you call us to fullness of life,  
but around us and within us, we see the brokenness of our world and of our ways.

**All: Have mercy on us, o God, according to your steadfast love.**

Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy.

Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing.

**All: Have mercy on us, o God, according to your steadfast love.**

Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others,  
and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us.

**All: Have mercy on us, o God, according to your steadfast love.**

One: Patient God, hear us, we pray. Amen.

*Quiet moment*

One: Remember: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;  
the past is finished and gone, everything becomes fresh and new.  
Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

OPENING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

#193, v. 1, 2, & 4

Verse 1:

**In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o’er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.**

Verse 2:

**When the woes of life o’er take me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me:  
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.**

Verse 4:

**Bane and blessing, pain, and pleasure,  
By the cross and sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.**

#193, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: RATHBUN 8.7.8.7|Ithamar Conkey 18479

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 41:1-3

Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.

The Lord protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land.

You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

The Lord sustains them on their sickbed; in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

The Gospel according to Luke 16:10-13

Jesus said, “Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? If you haven’t been faithful with someone else’s property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

WORD FOR ALL AGES - Have you planted your seed paper? Is anything spring forth from it? (If you'd like some to plant, we have a few more extra at church.) Look around your yard, your neighborhood. What new things are growing there? Send me a picture.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Who You Say That I Am”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan / Benjamin David Fielding, © Hillsong Publishing CCLI License No. 1908882

Who am I that the highest King would welcome

me?

I was lost, but He brought me in

Oh His love for me, Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free,

Oh, is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me

Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free,

Oh is free indeed,

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am...

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to Luke 16:19-35 (Common English Bible)

“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table, and dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I’m suffering in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

“The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’ Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

MESSAGE

We Once Were Lost: Lost Opportunities

HYMN "If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God" #544

Verse 1: **If I have been the source of pain, O God;  
If to the weak I have refused my strength;  
If, in rebellion, I have strayed away;  
Forgive me, God.**

Verse 2: **If I have spoken words of cruelty;  
If I have left some suffering unrelieved;  
Condemn not my insensitivity;  
Forgive me, God.**

Verse 3: **If I've insisted on a peaceful life,  
Far from the struggles that the gospel brings,  
When you prefer to guide me to the strife,  
Forgive me, God.**

Verse 4: **Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer  
And free me from temptations subtle snare;  
With tender patience, lead me to your care;  
Amen, Amen.**

#544, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: CAMACUA, Pablo D Sosa (b. 1933)

#### 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 "Amazing Grace"

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now, I see.**

**When we've been there ten thousand  
years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! Though we rarely see each other in person these days, our church is still: providing worship; providing Sunday school for our church kids; connecting members with each other; supporting neighbors in need, locally and further away. We believe those things are parts of God's calling for us in this place and we can do them because of steady financial support.

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... **May all that we give – be it our money or ourselves – be used to heal and to help, to repair and to restore, to comfort and to care. May all that we give be used so we might be your church, O God. Amen.**

## 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.**

## POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, Bruce Prewer, from [www.bruceprewer.com](http://www.bruceprewer.com); Confession, adapted from The UCC Book of Worship, p. 63 and Spill the Beans, Is 22, p. 16; Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the beans, Is 22, p. 22; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

## **NEW NEWS**

### **LENTEN SPIRIT GATHERINGS**

Well, we can't share soup in the fellowship hall, but we can still gather to nourish our spirits in this holy season. The next 2 Wednesdays on Zoom at 7:00 for about an hour, we'll gather to wonder together about what grace is, how it meets us, and why it meets us so often in “the other.” The link to this gathering is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86424714669?pwd=bFBuM1VYMGM0c2Jha2ZtY1Y1SmJodz09>

Or go to zoom.us, click “Join Meeting”, enter 864 2471 4669 for the Meeting ID and 131458 for the Security Passcode.

### **EASTER FLOWERS TO ORDER**

We are taking orders for Tulips, Hyacinths, and Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary on Easter. These would be delivered to the church and available for you to pick up after Easter worship. The cost for each plant is \$10.00. Orders need to be placed by TOMORROW, March 15th. Place your order by emailing Brandi Pletcher ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)). Include: How many of each type of flower do you want? (Tulips, hyacinths, or lilies) Are you dedicating your flowers in memory of someone? If so, include their name. Are you dedicating your flowers in thankfulness for something? If so, include that detail. Finally, indicate whether you plan to mail us your payment or drop it off at the church. Questions? Contact Brandi or Pastor Hope ([pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org)). THANK YOU!

### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING**

Part of Our Church's Wider Mission, this special mission offering of the United Church of Christ carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners, and other denominations, to provide 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. Support this offering through the month of March.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Good news! Our Endowment is willing and able to cover our sponsorship of Fathima, our sponsored child in Sri Lanka through World Vision.

More good news! Your special gifts can help us pay for the snow clearing we've had to do this winter! Even with our efforts to reduce the needed services, we've still had to pay nearly \$1900 already in 2021 for snow removal. (No, they didn't plow the parking lot, but they did still shovel much of our sidewalk, which we felt was the right thing to do for our neighbors in town as well having safe access to the office entrance. And the shoveling is the expensive part of snow removal.) Your special gift of \$50 will make you a "snow sponsor"! If you're able to give \$100, we'll consider you a "snowman" (or woman) and maybe even arrange for a token of our appreciation. Thanks for any way you can help!

### **EASTER GREETING VIDEOS**

Worship & Spiritual Growth asks you to take part in Easter worship by making a video of yourself saying the traditional Easter greeting, "Christ is risen!" If there's more than one person in your household, you could respond with the traditional response, "Christ is risen indeed!" Not sure how to make your own recording, call Pastor Hope and set up a time for her to make your recording. We'd love to have a good number our church friends' faces to greet each other on Easter day.

## **ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The church leaders would like to offer households an opportunity to attend church in-person! We will remain cautious and follow all CDC and State of Illinois guidelines. These include wearing a mask while attending, maintaining social distancing, and sitting with members of your household in the assigned pew(s). We also ask everyone to bring a copy of the bulletin or access it from their phone. We are taking 'reservations' now. If you would like to sign up or having questions, please email Kelli Brossart at [kellibrossart@gmail.com](mailto:kellibrossart@gmail.com). Those interested will be added to the schedule on a first-come, first-served basis. You will receive an email reminder mid-week of the Sunday you are schedule to attend. The email will also include the attendance guidelines as a refresher!

We know this is not a replacement for "regular" church, but we hope this provides a chance to reconnect with our beautiful place of worship. We are heading into final stretches of this remote worship journey, and all of us look forward to the day we can fully return!

### **GENOA CITY UCC LENTEN LUNCHES**

Drive thru Lenten Lunch, Wednesdays through March 31st. Lunch will consist of a choice of 2 soups, crackers, and a lettuce salad, along with a dessert. Payment will be a free will offering. Pick-up will be on Wednesdays from 11:30 - 12:30 in the church driveway. **To order your lunch, call Eileen DiMarco at 262-492-6520 on the Sunday before, from noon to 3 pm, or on Monday from 9 to noon.** The soup choices and other important information will be on their church Facebook page ([FirstCongregationalUCCGenoaCity](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCGenoaCity)).

### **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

continues Tuesday at 2PM open to everyone to read and discuss the Bible passage for the coming Sunday. Tell Pastor Hope if you want the Zoom link.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY**

continues at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

## **OUR PART IN THE STORY: DEVOTIONS ON SUNDAY'S TEXT**

### **Rich Man and Lazarus**

**Luke 16:19-31**

*Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.*

### **Monday: Some Sayings of Jesus**

**Luke 17:1-10**

❖ What do all of these sayings have in common?

### **Tuesday: Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers**

**Luke 17:11-19**

❖ Ten were healed. One turned back to show gratitude. What do you think was going on in the minds of the other nine?

### **Wednesday: The Coming of the Kingdom**

**Luke 17:20-37**

❖ Jesus said that the kingdom of God is among us. Where do you recognize its presence?

### **Thursday: More Parables**

**Luke 18:1-14**

❖ In what ways do you exalt yourself? How can you be more humble in those situations?

### **Friday: Jesus Blesses Little Children**

**Luke 18:15-17**

❖ Why do you think the disciples scolded Jesus? What is it about children that Jesus embraced, but that they disapproved of?

### **Saturday: The Rich Ruler**

**Luke 18:18-30**

❖ Is there anything that you would not be willing to give up to follow Jesus?

[www.theartoffaith.net](http://www.theartoffaith.net)

### **WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

He was the Son of God.

He was the Son of Man.

He came down from heaven.

He was born in a stable.

Kings came to his cradle.

His first home was a cave.

He was born to be a king.

He was a child of Mary.

He was the greatest among rulers.

He was the least among servants.

He was loved and honored.

He was despised and rejected.

He was gentle and loving.

He made many enemies.

He counseled perfection.

He was a friend of sinners.

He was a joyful companion.

He was a man of sorrows.

He said, "Rejoice."

He said, "Repent."

"Love God with all your heart."

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

"Don't be anxious."

"Count the cost."

"Deny yourself."

"Ask and receive."

In him was life.

He died on a cross.

He was a historic person.

He lives today.

He was Jesus of Nazareth.

He is Christ the Lord.

~ written by Kenneth I. Morse, copyright © 1979 Brethren Press.

## **PRAYERS FOR MARCH 14, 2021**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope ([pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org)) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)). THANKS! *We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

**JOYS:** We rejoice with Jim and Kathy Speaker at the birth of new grandbaby, Callie Ann Currier, born to Michelle and Andrew last Sunday, March 7. Everyone is doing well!

### **CONCERNS**

Those traveling

Those undergoing surgery

Leaders trying to make wise decisions

Those living with homelessness around us

Those struggling with loneliness and sadness

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

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

Those whose household relationships are strained

Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic

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)