

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 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

Ode Keil

One: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:
That it is not we who chose Christ, but Christ who chose us;
That we are not here because of our goodness, but because of Christ's grace;
That we are not here to enlighten ourselves, but to allow Christ to enlighten us;
That we have not come to be entertained,
but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Let us pray:

Holy One, we come as we are today, seeking to be your people,
seeking to serve others in your name.
As we come to you, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

All: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

All: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

All: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God.

One: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, o God,
so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways,
to the glory of your name. 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.

HYMN "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" #459

Verse 1: **Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

Verse 2: **Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

Verse 3: **O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

#459, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: NETTLETON; John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music 1813

WORD FOR ALL AGES - Zacchaeus probably wasn't well-liked by the people in his town. He'd probably developed some dislike and resentment of them as well. Think of someone you don't always like. Wonder for a minute about the things that make their life harder. Wonder for a minute whether you've ever done something that's made their life harder. Say a prayer, asking Jesus to help both of you be more understanding and caring.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lord, I Need You”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Songwriters: Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher; © 2013 Provident Label Group LLC;
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Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You...

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Luke 2: 9-11 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

The Gospel according to Luke 4:16-19 He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

The Gospel according to Luke 18:31-19:10 (Common English Bible)

Jesus took the Twelve aside and said, “Look, we’re going up to Jerusalem, and everything written about the Human One by the prophets will be accomplished. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. He will be ridiculed, mistreated, and spit on. After torturing him, they will kill him. On the third day, he will rise up.” But the Twelve understood none of these words. The meaning of this message was hidden from them and they didn’t grasp what he was saying.

As Jesus came to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting beside the road begging. When the man heard the crowd passing by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus the Nazarene is passing by.”

The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy.” Those leading the procession scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, “Son of David, show me mercy.”

Jesus stopped and called for the man to be brought to him. When he was present Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see.”

Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they praised God too.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn’t because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who

was about to pass that way. When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.” So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much.”

Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. The Human One came to seek and save the lost.”

MESSAGE We Once Were Lost: Jesus Seeks the Lost

SONG “To Be Loved this Way”

Verse 1: **If it’s true, You love me as I am,
and not as I think I should be.
Then I’m free to face the parts of me,
I’m tempted to deny.**

Chorus 1: **God, You know all my laughter and all of my tears;
You know where I’ve been and You know why I’m here.
And You know it heals my deepest wounds
to be loved this way.**

Verse 2: **If it’s true, You love us as we are
and not as we think we should be.
Then we’re free to trust the Mystery
and Love beyond all fear.**

Chorus 2: **God, You know all our laughter and all of our tears;
You know where we’ve been and You know why we’re here.
And You know it heals our deepest wounds
to be loved this way. (repeat chorus 2)**

Words and Music: Bryan Sirchio @2007 Crosswind Music

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.**

**My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

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; 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. Wednesday 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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Support this annual wider church offering through the month of March. One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners, and other denominations, to provide sources of 7 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.

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 help. 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. 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).

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

Zacchaeus

Luke 18:31-19:10

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

Monday: The Parable of the Ten Pounds

Luke 19:11-28

❖ What do you make of this- Jesus' last teaching before entering Jerusalem?

Tuesday: Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

Matthew 9:27-31

❖ How is this story similar to the story of the blind man in Luke 18? How is it different?

Wednesday: Jericho

Joshua 6:1-7

❖ Is it significant that Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus occurred in Jericho? What does this text tell you about Jericho?

Thursday: Tax Collectors

Matthew 21:31-33

❖ Who are the "tax collectors" in your world?

Friday: The Son of Man

Mark 2:1-12

❖ Why do you think Jesus refers to himself as the "Son of Man"? What does that title mean to you?

Saturday: Jerusalem

Matthew 23:37-39

❖ What do you think was going through Jesus' mind as he approached Jerusalem?

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

PRAYERS FOR March 21, 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: Margot Foley (March 23)

CONCERNS

The eight people murdered in the shootings around Atlanta this week, their families and communities
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)