

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Festival of Palm Sunday

March 24, 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 Molozaiky

Sharing of joys and concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Kennedy

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**All: We journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we travel through betrayal and death;
we cradle hope deep in our hearts.**

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for,
he is the Word who sustains us.

**All: We wave palm branches in anticipation;
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk**

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God!

OPENING PRAYER

One: Loving God, we gather today as a crowd of people drawn to this story of a man whose life still challenges the way we live.

All: You are the source of our being; you make your home within us.

One: Forgive us for the times when we ignore your presence.

All: Forgive us for the times when we follow the crowd away from you, swayed by people who push us to fulfill our own desires before the needs of others.

One: Forgive us the times when we fail to be true disciples:

All: when we run away from our commitments;

One: when we allow fear to turn us from what's right.

All: God in your mercy, forgive us once more. Renew us and refresh us with your Holy Spirit. Give us the desire to follow the way of Jesus to the cross and past the grave. Amen.

HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”
verse 1 only

#216

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to Mark 11:1-11

One: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them,

Two: “Go into the village ahead, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’”

One: They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them,

Two: “What are you doing, untying the colt?”

One: They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.

Two: Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

People: “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

One: Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had taken in the whole scene, he went out to Bethany with the twelve, as it was already late.

ANTHEM “Hosanna!” Chancel Choir
During the anthem, children, their caregivers, and anyone else who would like to join in are invited to bring their palms and join Pastor Hope in a joyful parade through the sanctuary.

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.

HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #216
verses 2 & 3 only

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to Mark 14: 1-11

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him, for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

MESSAGE What Have You Come For?

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

WORDS OF RESPONSE

Leader: We will remember the soothing of the ointment

WEST: **and not forget the jarring anger.**

Leader: We will remember the sweetness

BROADWAY: **and not forget the sour.**

Leader: We will remember the jagged desperateness of Judas,

WEST: **and own it. It is our story too.**

Leader: We will remember:

BROADWAY: the passion of love,

WEST: the smell of perfume,

BROADWAY: the path of rejection,

WEST: the stench of blood money.

Leader: And to help us on the journey,
to help us hold the tensions,
to help us face both the delight and difficulty,

All: **we will say yes**
to God's generosity in creation;
we will say yes
to God's judgment poured out on humankind;
we will say yes
to God's justice in Jesus.
Amen.

HYMN "My Song is Love Unknown"

#222

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Generous God, you've given us life, health, and wealth,
family and friends, places of safety and security
– all that we have is from you.**

Receive our offerings today.

**Use all that we give for the glory of your kingdom
and the honor of your name. Amen.**

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.

LAYING OUR BURDENS DOWN

*HYMN "What Wondrous Love is This" #223

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Blessing our Palms

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 to worship, by Thom Shuman, <http://www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/> ; Opening prayer and Dedication, adp from Spill the Beans, Issue 18, p.49-50. Words of response by the Iona Community in Stages on the Way: Worship Resources and reading for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, 2000, p. 37; Music shared under CCLI #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

March 31

Liturgist

Mike Kennedy

Cheryl Heber

Video Director

Nicki Carter

Greeter/Usher

Dick Strahs

Fellowship Hosts

Super Fellowship

Sunday School

Jean Valsa



The altar flowers this morning are in honor of what would have been Marti and Ken Swanson's 70th Wedding Anniversary, given by Marti.

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Super Fellowship and Egg Dying following worship
- Choir practice, Wednesday, 7pm
- Maundy Thursday Potluck and Worship Service, 6pm
- Good Friday observances, noon to 3pm

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

BLOOD DRIVE:

Our spring blood drive is coming up, and our goal is 22 blood products. Please save the date: Tuesday, April 16, 3:30-7:30. See Carol Richardson with any questions.

FOR CONNECTION

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY! Join us for a four-week Fellowship Study Opportunity as we explore our Christian identity.

Our identity affects where we live, how and where we travel; it drives what we buy and what work we can do. Identity is important. Think about why we're so devastated when it's stolen! Knowing our spiritual identity is even more important! In this four-session, small group study, we'll explore our own hearts, minds, and the Word to learn more about the power that is in our own grace-created identities.

Starting Thursday, April 4, at 6:30 PM in the church lounge. We'll wrap up after about an hour. Bring a favorite Bible if you have one or use one of ours. There's a signup sheet in the lounge to help with our planning.

HOLY WEEK, MARCH 24-31

TODAY, Palm Sunday, March 24:

Everyone is welcome to dye a few eggs and enjoy some great snacks and fellowship time downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Maundy Thursday, March 28:

Potluck supper at 6pm (the sign-up sheet is in the lounge) followed by worship at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday, March 29:

Our church sanctuary will be open for drop-in, quiet contemplation between noon and 3PM, the hours when we traditionally remember Jesus' time on the cross. You may come and go at your leisure during this time.

Additionally, First Congregational UCC in Genoa City will hold a simple Good Friday service at 1PM. Pastor Hope will participate and all are invited to worship. 624 Park St, Genoa City WI.

Easter Sunday, March 31:

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



COMING EVENTS

- Holy Humor Sunday, April 7
The defeat of death is a reason to rejoice! You are invited to bring a church-appropriate joke to share!
- 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 24, 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: Theresa Kaman's uncle's surgery went well.
Ruth Kaman is thankful for her friend, Ryder.
Phoebe is thankful for Leprechaun Day.
We are thankful for Betty Waspi.

PRAYERS FOR:

Kathy Speaker's cousin, Mark Deno and his family
Sheryl Vezina's brother, Bart Parrish
Theresa Kamen
Theresa Kaman's uncle
Blanton family
Mundelein tornado refugees
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

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Nicki Carter.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Hope U.C.C. in Aurora and their Pastor, the Rev. Rudra Dundzila.

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

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

Matt. 21:8-9

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - reign - ty hold sway.

The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,

our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.

My Song Is Love Unknown

222

Samuel Crossman, 1664; alt.

2 Cor. 5:15–19; Heb. 5:7–10

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 God left the rich - est throne sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they threw down palms and sweet - est prais - es sang.
4 What has my Sov - ereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
5 I sing my plain be - lief, one song my heart out - pours:

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
But Christ as flesh and bone the world re - fused to know.
Ho - san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar - kets rang.
Christ gave new strength to run, re - stored the gift of sight.
Nev - er was pain nor grief, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need did
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, for blood and death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
life ex - pend; who at my need did life ex - pend.
thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.
'gainst Christ rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst Christ rise.
glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

First published in 1664 by Samuel Crossman, one of the first writers of English hymns, this hymn of praise for Christ's love was not appreciated until 200 years later. The tune was named for the parish in northeastern Wales where the composer served as vicar.

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.
John D. Edwards, c. 1840

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)
Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993