

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

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.

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship.

**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**

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Mike Kennedy

GATHERING SONG "All-Consuming Fire"

Verse 1: **Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
know all my thoughts and my ways.  
Cleanse me O God, give me a pure heart,  
that I may see Your face.**

Chorus: **For You are an all-consuming fire!  
For You are an all-consuming fire!**

Verse 2: **Teach me O God, show me Your ways,  
and I will walk in Your truth.  
Keep me, O God, keep me from falling,  
That I may stand before You.**

Chorus:

Verse 3: **Fill me, O God, and send me out,  
and I will make You known.  
Give me Your heart, and Your compassion,  
and let Your mercy flow.**

Chorus: 2X

Tag: **Search me, O God. Search me, O God. Search me, O God.**

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Nicki Carter

One: Before we were born,

**All: Before we took our first breath,**

One: Before the week started,

**All: Before the year started,**

One: Before we said, "I love you,"

**All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"**

One: Before we figured out who we really are,

**All: Before we figured out who we want to be,**

One: Before it all—

**All: God loved us.**

One: Unconditionally and freely,

**All: Fully and honestly—**

One: God loved us.

**All: Again and again, this is where our story begins.**

One: Let us worship God!

And let us pray: God, we bring our stories to this place  
and we wait to be met by yours.

We bring our faithfulness:

**All: shape it with grace.**

One: We bring our success:

**All: shape it with generosity.**

One: We bring our weaknesses:

**All: shape them with compassion**

One: We bring our possibilities:

**All: shape them with hope.**

One: We confess, God, that the way is hard, and we are tired.

**All: Speak into our tiredness with your story of grace.**

One: We confess that the way is unclear,  
and we do not always know the path.

**All: Speak into our wandering with your story of vision**

One: We confess that we are tired of waiting,  
and we just want to make it happen.

**All: Speak into our impatience with your story of wisdom.**

One: Let your story be our story, O God.

We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43, verses 1 & 2

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicki Carter

Leader: We believe God is love—

**All: Unconditional, constant love.**

Leader: We believe this love exists for all,

**All: Choosing each and every one of us,  
Day after day,  
Again and again and again.**

Leader: We believe that God's love is like a river.

**All: Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea;  
God's love cannot help but move toward us.  
We are swimming in it.**

Leader: We believe that God loved first.

**All: We believe that God breathed life into dust.**

Leader: We believe that God said, "This is good,"

**All: And because we believe that God loved first,  
We strive to build lives that reflect God's love.  
May we begin again here. Amen.**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION with special music from Nicholas and Cheryl Heber

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE The Gospel according to John 14: 1-7, 15-20, 27

Read by Judy Jooss

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

... "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

... "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

HYMN “Bind Us Together”

Chorus:

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together Lord, bind us together,  
Lord, bind us together in love.**

Verse:

**There is only one God, there is only one King;  
There is only one body, that is why we sing.**

Repeat Chorus

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SCRIPTURE The Gospel according to John 15:1-5, 9-13

Read by Judy Jooss

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing....

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

SCRIPTURE The Gospel according to John 17:1-3, 18-23

Read by Mike Kennedy

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ... I ask not only on behalf of these here now, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given to these who believe, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

HYMN “Bind Us Together”

SEE PREVIOUS PAGE

RESPONSIVE READING inspired by First Corinthians 13

George Zimmermann

One: Love is patient,

**All: but sometimes we want things to happen on our schedule.**

One: Love is kind,

**All: but we do not always show that in our actions towards others.**

One: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude,

**All: but there are times when we are.**

One: Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

**All: but rejoices in truth and freedom.**

One: Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures.

**All: Our deepest desire is to do the same.**

One: Love can be shown through our actions.

**All: Love is resilient determination.**

One: Love digs deeper.

**All: Love gives more.**

One: Love is made evident in big and small ways,

**All: and the world is a better place.**

MESSAGE What Wondrous Love: What Does Love Look Like?

A Reflection from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering,  
shared by Cheryl Heber and George Zimmermann

### **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #43, verses 3 & 4

TIME OF PRAYER

Robert Richardson

One: O God, we are one with you.

You have made us one with you.

You have taught us that if we are open to one another,  
you dwell in us.

**All: Help us to preserve this openness**

**and to fight for it with all our hearts.**

One: Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.

**All: O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit.**

One: Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love.

**All: Love has overcome. Love is victorious. God is love. 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.**

HYMN "I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty" #50, verses 1 & 2

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

One: Affirmed as your disciples, Lord Jesus,

**All: may we go in grace and love, confident to proclaim that we are your friends, ready to serve your kingdom in all we do and say.**

One: Send us out with your blessing, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, this day and always.

**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.**

Call to Worship and Affirmation of Faith, by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org; Opening prayer, by Cheryl Lawrie, and posted on her blog, <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>; Message and Responsive Reading from 2022 Planning Guide, “Love Remains” from OGHS resources; Time of prayer, written by Thomas Merton. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**BIBLE STUDY:** We meet on Zoom each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. No special knowledge is needed!

This Tuesday, we’ll be studying John 18:12-27.

**ZOOMING IN ON LOVE:** Gather for our Lenten chats, Wednesday evenings at 7:00. We meet on Zoom for a little under an hour and we’re focusing on LOVE – the hard-working, in-the-flesh, actions-not-words kind of love that Jesus calls us to and God demonstrates for us over and over. We hope everyone can join in for these important conversations. The Zoom meeting can be found at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297314044?pwd=THM4UjlRZWJIT2o3ejBPOUpsU0JqUT09>

Or you can go to zoom.us and then use Meeting ID 862 9731 4044 and Passcode 469196.

**DRIVE THROUGH LENTEN LUNCHEs:** First Congregational UCC of Genoa City is again serving Drive-thru Lenten Lunches – choice of soup, with salad, roll, and dessert, all for a free-will offering. Available for pick-up between 11:30 and 12:30 each Wednesday during Lent. Call 262-492-6250 for each week’s menu.

**VACATION:** Pastor Hope will be on vacation on Sunday, March 27, she will look forward to seeing everyone next week.

**GIFT CARDS:** Hi, all! I'd just like to make a public service announcement regarding gift card sales. I'm always happy to have you order/buy gift cards but with funds being a little low lately, I'm not keeping a lot of cards in stock. Also, if you've left an order in the gift card box, please let me know so that I can retrieve your order and get it placed.

Thanks for your ongoing support of the gift card program!

Penny

**WORD FROM Wider Missions:**

Dear Church Members and Friends,

We thank you for your support of our Wider Missions Ministry. With your help, we regularly make a difference in the local community with financial assistance to local people in need, donations of school supplies, welcoming refugees, sponsoring a Christmas Family, supporting the local food pantries, and many other organizations, local and far-reaching. You can learn more about these organizations from the “Mission Partner” mention in our Sunday bulletin prayer list.

For a little St. Patrick’s Day fun, starting March 13 through April 17, our Wider Missions will be sponsoring a *fun* **NO BAKE-BAKE SALE** fund-raiser. We are asking our church members and friends to donate the price of one, two, or more baked goods usually found at a BAKE SALE. However, there will NOT be any real baked good to buy. No purchasing baking supplies or baking items to bring to church and sell. Also totally free of extra calories and carbs. Win! Win? We apologize to anyone who really wants to buy baked goods right now, but Wider Missions will gladly promise to host a bake-filled coffee hour when we all return to normal church.

We hope you will prayerfully consider making our NO BAKE-BAKE SALE a success so we can continue the wonderful work we do throughout the year. Our Wider Missions committee is open to all members who want to serve in THE WIDER MISSION MINISTRY that lends help and support to those within our church, community and world as Christ would have us do.



## **PRAYERS for the Week of March 27, 2022**

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: Birthdays:** Judy Jooss (March 31)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca  
Deann Workmon  
Patt Clymer, friend of the Molozaiys  
A Richmond family in a time of crisis  
Marti Swanson  
Elise Livingston's friend, Jim Wright (Patty's husband)  
Debbie Franzone

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family  
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin  
Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother  
Louise Strahs' niece, Amy Lenik

### **Prayer Partner**

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Dawn Conley and Mike Kennedy.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ, New England Congregational Church in Aurora, IL, and their pastor, Brandon Perrine.

### **We also pray for our Mission Partner: Mission Partner is Feed My Starving Children:**

As a Christian nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. You will hear us say this again and again: "We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed." We truly mean this. This means reaching the hard-to-reach people and places, the "least of these." They will be found, and they will be fed. With God's help we will work together with organizations and ministries across the globe to end hunger. Learn more at <https://www.fmsc.org>

### **Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:**

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), Bob Krueger (Libertyville)

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might - y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer - cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver-more your tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re - stored in you;

Je - sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im - part.  
 Take a - way our love of sin-ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 You we would be al - ways bless-ing, love you as your an - gels love,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place.

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un - fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a - bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

## I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in  
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es  
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,  
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus

Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,  
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal  
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,  
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion

all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in  
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this  
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,  
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a

pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.  
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.  
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.  
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch of 1825.

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.  
 Dimitri Boriniansky, 1825