

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on Palm Sunday
March 28, 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

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God.

Come as you are to worship the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Though we're scattered in body, we're gathered in spirit.

Let us worship Christ our Savior!

Cry out, people of God, with joy and trust in God,

because if we keep quiet, the stones will shout praise!

All: God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: With the ones who went before us, let us shout hosanna!

All: God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Hosanna to the Son of David!

All: God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

All: God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Praise the Lord!

All: We praise God's holy name!

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

One: Enter, Lord Jesus! We welcome you into our midst on this Palm Sunday morning,

just as the people of Jerusalem welcomed you way back when in Bible times!

You come to us as Christ the King, triumphant over darkness and hate!

You come to us as Christ the King victorious over pride and injustice!

You come to us as Christ the King, humble, on the back of a donkey.

Teach us your ways that we too might conquer that which makes us less than holy.

Encourage us to proclaim your glory. Enable us to follow your example.

In our songs of praise, in our reflective thoughts, in our reading of scripture,

help us to walk in humility and service.

We confess that we are all too quick to shout: "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

How easy it is to be carried by the crowd.

And we confess that if we were present in those Bible times, we would likely,

all too soon, change our cries to "Crucify! Crucify!"

ALL: Have mercy, Lord.

Forgive us, Lord,

And guide us in your paths.

One: Renew us and transform us! Enter our hearts, our minds, our souls today,
that your kingdom might come amongst us. Amen.

HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #216

Verse 1: **All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**

Verse 2: **O promised one of Israel, of David's royal line,
The one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine.
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

Verse 3: **As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

#216, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1615

WORD FOR ALL AGES - Let's review the "Palm Sunday" story. What city was Jesus entering? What did he ride? What things did the people shout? What do palms have to do with? And, what good does it do us to tell these stories over and over?

THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

The Gospel according to Luke 19:29-40

When Jesus had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

HYMN "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" #213

Verse 1: **"Hosanna, loud hosanna," the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

Verse 3: **"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"**

#213, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: Kathloschen Hofkapelle 1784

JESUS WEEPS OVER JERUSALEM Luke 19:41-44

As Jesus came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

MESSAGE Are We There Yet? What's Jesus Want from Us?

HYMN I Love to Tell the Story #522

Verse 1: **I love to tell the story of unseen things above
Of Jesus' the golden visions of all our golden dreams.**

**I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

Verse 4: **I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song
Will be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

#522, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: HANKEY, William G Fischer, 1869

SCRIPTURE Luke 19:45-48 Jesus overturns the temple tables

PRAYER

SONG RESPONSE

We have decided to follow Jesus
We have decided to follow Jesus
We have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back.

SCRIPTURE Luke 20:9-19 A parable about unfaithful tenants

PRAYER

SONG RESPONSE

The world behind me, the cross before me.
The world behind me, the cross before me.
The world behind me, the cross before me.
No turning back, no turning back.

SCRIPTURE Luke 21:5-8, 36-37 Jesus says the temple will be destroyed

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

Though none go with me, I still will follow.

Though none go with me, I still will follow.

Though none go with me, I still will follow.

No turning back, no turning back.

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 "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.**

POSTLUDE

Call to worship, opening prayer, and Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the beans, Is 22, p. 22; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

This Thursday evening at 7:00 in our usual Facebook broadcast format, we can join together to remember Christ's last evening with his disciples, his arrest and betrayal and denial. We will share communion as we remember that night, so come to your worship space with some bread and cup to share with Christ. It is a special night of worship, so you might also want to take a little time to set the scene at your home – light a candle, sit in a comfortable place, quiet some of the buzzer and dingers that might interrupt – so that you can immerse yourself in this sacred story.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Worship & Spiritual Growth is preparing a couple simple and reflective worship experiences for you for Good Friday. These will be posted on our Facebook and YouTube pages at noon and at 3:00.

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. Please get these videos to Pastor Hope **no later than Wednesday!**

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

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!

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!

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

Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:29-44

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

Monday: Jesus in the Temple

Luke 19:45-20:47

❖ How is Jesus' work done in your church? What gets in the way of that work?

Tuesday: Jesus in the Temple

Luke 21:1-19

❖ What can you give from your poverty?

Wednesday: Teaching and Signs

Luke 21:20-38

❖ Why do you think Jesus' last teachings were so pointed and strong? Why are these important last words?

Thursday: The Betrayal of Jesus

Luke 22:1-23:25

❖ What part of this story speaks most powerfully to you? Why?

Friday: The Crucifixion of Jesus

Luke 23:26-49

❖ What would it be like to carry the cross for Jesus? What does it mean to "carry your cross" in your faith life?

Saturday: The Burial of Jesus

Luke 23:50-56

❖ Why do you think Joseph of Arimathea took care of Jesus' body? What do you think he was feeling as he did that?

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PRAYERS FOR MARCH 28, 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: Judy Jooss (March 31)

CONCERNS

The many worn-down, weary, and depressed

The many killed, injured, and displaced by tornados across the southern U.S. this week

The 10 people who were shot and killed in Colorado this past week and their families and communities

The 8 people who were shot and killed in Georgia earlier this month and their families and communities

Those traveling

Those undergoing surgery

Leaders trying to make wise decisions

Ongoing Prayers:

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

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)

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.

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

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.