

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Easter Sunday

March 31, 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're visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

EASTER GREETING

Rev. Hope Molozaui

One: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

WORDS OF WELCOME

You are welcome to share your joys and concerns on the prayer sheet that is circulating around the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG "How Great is Our God"

VERSE 1:

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide;
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice**

CHORUS:

**How great is our God, sing with me, how great is our God
And all will see how great, how great is our God**

VERSE 2:

**And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son;
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.**

CHORUS twice through

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Cheryl Heber

One: Can it be true?

Could it be Jesus

rises from death to life?

**All: Yes,
proclaim the Good News!**

One: God's love has overcome;
it has been set free
to flow from the grave

**All: through the streets
into the town,
across the borders**

One: into our hearts,
from our hearts

**All: touching all,
bringing hope,
creating life,**

One: the Kingdom comes.

**All: So, let us come to the kingdom
and worship the king of love.**

OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God,
as this new day dawns
we are reminded
of that first Easter morning,
when sorrow turned to joy,

**All: Jesus is risen from the dead.
We do not claim to understand how,
but we believe it to be true.**

One: We gather here, Sunday by Sunday,

**All: celebrating resurrection,
celebrating love that overcomes death.**

One: Like Peter, Mary
and all those who follow Jesus,

**All: we are shocked
and surprised by your power over death.**

One: Like Mary and Mary
and all those who follow you,

**All: we come as we are,
simple people, flawed and imperfect,
and we offer ourselves to you.**

One: We are happy to confess to you

**All: that we still have doubts,
that we still deny you at times,
that we still fail obey your commands.
We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.**

One: Like you did for Peter and Mary
and all those who follow you,

**All: fill us with your Holy Spirit
and send us out renewed and refreshed,
ready to serve you in the world
today and every day.
Amen.**

HYMN “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” #233

ANTHEM “Let the Trumpet Sound” Chancel Choir

THE CHANCEL STEPS

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are invited to remain with their parents in worship.

SONG RESPONSE “Halle-Halle-Halle-lu-jah” (#236 NCH)

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 15:12-22, 54-55

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

...

When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The Gospel according to Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MESSAGE

Is this Good News?

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

#241

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

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.

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**As Christ offered his life and death to your will, O God,
so we offer ourselves and our gifts to be used by you.
As you took Christ's sacrifice and filled it with power,
give these offerings the power to transform lives.
Let us be the living presence of your reign on earth,
now and always. Amen.**

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

One: We thought you were dead.
We thought the cross was the end.
We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb,
that was it.
But this is it:

**All: The dead are living;
the cross is empty;
the stone is rolled,
and one word describes it all:
Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!**

One: We thought you had said your final word.
We thought those with the power had won.
We thought that when you cried out,
that was it.
But this is it:

**All: the Word breathes;
the powers are defeated;
the final cry was only the beginning,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!**

One: We thought the story was finished.
We thought the hope had ended.
We thought that when the tomb was sealed,
that was it.
But this is it:

**All: the story has just begun;
the hope is newly born;
the tomb is empty,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!**

One: This is the news:

All: Jesus is risen!

One: This is the moment:

All: Jesus is alive!

One: This is the gospel:

All: Jesus is with us!

One: We thought that when they crucified you,
death had defeated life,
and that was it.
But this is it:

**All: Love is stronger than death,
and one word says it all:
Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!**

*HYMN “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” #240

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Halle, Halle, Halle”

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

Call and Opening Prayer from Spill the Beans, Issue 18; Affirmation by Roddy
Hamilton, at <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>.
Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>April 7</u>
Liturgist	Cheryl Heber	Kathy Speaker
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts		Tedders
Sunday School	N/A	N/A

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK:

Read-through for next Sunday’s Scripture drama, Wednesday,
6:30pm

Choir practice, Wednesday, 7pm

Small Group Meeting, Thursday, 6:30pm

Holy Humor Sunday, April 7, 10am. Bring a (church-safe) joke!

Have you been looking for more news that might be good news? Visit www.goodnewsnetwork.org for a wide array of stories!

CHURCH NEWS

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 THIS 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.

SPRING MEETING of the Fox Valley Association of the Illinois Conference of the UCC is April 13, 9am to 1pm, Christ Tamil UCC Church in Downer's Grove. Will be presentations from that congregation on being an immigrant church, as well as presentations on best practices for church social media and on Exodus World Service. Anyone is welcome to attend. Let Pastor Hope know if you're interested.

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.



**Thanks to all who donated Spring Flowers
for our Easter Worship Service**

A.J. and Cait Causevic

In Thankfulness for The
Community Church of
Richmond

Bob and Judy Jooss

In thankfulness for our friends
& family
In thankfulness for The
Community Church of
Richmond

Theresa Kaman

In thankfulness for Janis
Voge, on her birthday
In thankfulness for Maria
Ehrenberger
In thankfulness for Shirley
Voge

Charles Kemp

In Memory of Yvonne Kemp

Hope Molozaizy

In thankfulness for Alex,
Henry and Margaret

Carol Sligting & Bill Haase

In Memory of John Sligting &
Peggy Haase

Dick & Louise Strahs

In Memory of Kenny & Billy

Trish Woselowsky

In Memory of Bill Runkel,
brother of Trish, brother-in-
law of Troy Woselowsky

**Please remember to take your flowers home at the end of today's
service.*

SAVE THE DATE!



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF RICHMOND
PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Donations needed—hostas, coneflowers, daylilies,
and other perennials.

Help is also needed on the day of the sale!

Contact **Mike Kennedy** with questions
815-528-0127 or mjkdesigns5@yahoo.com

**Stop by for a great selection of perennials,
vegetables and potted planters!**

2024
1st Annual
Spring Garden Tea



Sunday, May 19, 1-4 PM
at Horticultural Hall
in Lake Geneva

\$75 Ticket includes:

Tea Luncheon

Silent Auction

Harpist Annette Bjorling

Storyteller Lynn Rymarz

Ticket Sales begin on April 21

See Karen Wootton for more information

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF March 31, 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: Birthdays: Judy Jooss (3/31); Ode Keil (4/5); Kim May (4/5); and Arthur Tedder (4/6).

Excited for the expansion of the local wildlife refuge.

PRAYERS FOR:

Debbie Franzone's daughter-in-law, Rebecca
Betty Waspi's relative, Nancy
Kathy Speaker's cousin, Mark Deno and his family
The Anderson's family friend, Gail Ripka
Sheryl Vezina's brother, Bart Parrish
Theresa Kamen
Theresa Kaman's uncle
Blanton family
Mundelein tornado refugees
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 Partners this week are Dawn Conley and Mike Kennedy.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John U.C.C. in Naperville and their Pastor, the Rev. Matt Mimplitz.

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

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluia
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

241

Latin, c. 5th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

Luke 24:36-37

1 Joy dawns a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
hearts to be your own, That we may give you
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

This anonymous Latin hymn of uncertain date is one of the two earliest hymns assigned to a special season. From that beginning grew a full list of medieval Latin hymns assigned to specific times and seasons.

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.
German carol, 15th century
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609
Harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Mat. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10

St. 1 transl., Lyra Davidica, London, 1708
St. 2-5 transl., The New Century Hymnal, 1994

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 To the tomb the wom - en bring, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 There the an - gel clothed in white, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 "Has - ten now to Gal - i - lee," Al - le - lu - ia!
5 Christ ap - pears in full ar - ray, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Spic - es rich, an of - fer - ing, Al - le - lu - ia!
Tells the news with great de - light, Al - le - lu - ia!
"Tell the oth - ers what you see!" Al - le - lu - ia!
Sing with joy this Pas - chal day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ask - ing where might Je - sus be, Al - le - lu - ia!
This the news the an - gel gives, Al - le - lu - ia!
With ex - cite - ment trem - bling, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Al - le - lu - ia!

In 1749, an English translation of this fourteenth-century Latin hymn dropped all but the first stanza of the original. Most hymnbooks have used that (1749) version. In this new translation the original Latin verses of the medieval text are restored, thus bringing to life the original Easter narrative.

Tune: LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
Robert Williams, 1817
Harm. John Roberts (1822-1877)