

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 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 will share communion during this worship time. You're invited to get something to break – bread, cracker, cookie, muffin – and something to drink and have them with you as we worship.

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

Zofia Obara

One: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep, so God seeks and saves the lost.

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,
so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

As a father receives a returning wayward son,
so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

Let us praise God, who welcomes and rejoices over us.

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 pause

One: Listen: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
the past is finished and gone, everything has become new.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

HYMN "O God, How We Have Wandered"

Verse 1:

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.**

Verse 2:

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

Verse 3:

**O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

#202, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: Passion Chorale 7.7.7.6D, Melody by Hans Leo Hassler 1601, Harm J.S. Back 1729

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to Luke 15:1-10 (Common English Bible)

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

"Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.' In the same way, I

tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."

WORD FOR ALL AGES – Remember some great parties you've been to. Remember some great times of celebration at church. Remember a time when you were surprised to be invited to a party that turned out to be a great time for you. Thank God for all the times of rejoicing you've had in your life.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come as You Are"

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Words and music by David Crowder, Matt Maher, Ben Glover; © 2014 9t One Songs; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535

Come out of sadness	So lay down your burdens
From wherever you've been	Lay down your shame
Come brokenhearted	All who are broken
Let rescue begin	Lift up your face
Come find your mercy	Oh wanderer come home
Oh sinner come kneel	You're not too far
Earth has no sorrow	So lay down your hurt
That heaven can't heal	Lay down your heart
Earth has no sorrow	Come as you are
That heaven can't heal	...

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to Luke 15:11-32

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands."' So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.'"

MESSAGE

We Once were Lost: But Now Are Found! Rejoice!

HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Verse 1:

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain:

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Verse 2:

**Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3:

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Emmanuel) everywhere!**

Repeat Refrain

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

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.

Words of Remembering

Now as they were eating together, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink of it, all of you; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration – Place your hands over the bread and cup you have before you as we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to each table that’s been prepared for you today. Bless each bite and each sip that we share in your name today. Bless each of us in our eating and drinking; wherever we are, let our eyes be opened, so that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, in our enemies, and in all for whom Christ lived and died. Amen.

We Share the Elements – Partake of what is before you as you share your table with Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west
and north and south to share at Christ’s feast.
Thank you for Christ’s presence in the bread and the cup and in each of us.
By your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.
Go with us to the streets and the screens,
to our places of labor and leisure,
so that whether we are gathered or scattered,
we may be the servant church of the servant Christ,
in whose name we rejoice to pray. 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.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time!
See the announcements for some special offering opportunities right now.
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 and Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication, adp. from Spill the Beans, Issue 21, pp. 94 and 70; Prayer of Thanksgiving, UCC Book of Worship, p. 74; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

BINGO is TODAY! At 4:00! You'll need: a computer or other device to access Zoom; Bingo cards – either your own or those you print at home or those you've asked Judy Jooss to deliver to you; Bingo markers – coins, buttons, M&Ms...

When it's time, we'll all log onto the Zoom link. Judy will be our Bingo caller; calls will be displayed on the screen also. We'll mark our cards accordingly. We'll play several games with some breaks in between for chatting, and we'll have some small prizes available for the great Bingo-ers among us. If you print your own, Judy recommends printing them from:

<https://letsplaybingo.io/generator>

The link for our gathering is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362208817?pwd=Z0l3WllkT1VGy3JQRGV4UWVlbnVVRQT09> .

Or find us at Meeting ID 863 6220 8817 and Security Passcode: 765244

Other questions? Contact Judy – jdjooss@gmail.com or 262-877-9301.

CABINET MEETS tomorrow night, March 8, at 6:30PM. If you have business the Cabinet should address, contact Pastor Hope or President Charles Kemp.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK. We'll resume next Tuesday.

EASTER FLOWERS TO ORDER We are taking orders for Tulips, Hyacinths, and Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary on Easter. These would be delivered to the church and available for you to pick up after Easter worship. The cost for each plant is \$10.00. Orders need to be placed by NEXT MONDAY, March 15th. place your order by emailing Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org). Include: How many of each type of flower do you want? (Tulips, hyacinths, or lilies) Are you dedicating your flowers in memory of someone? If so, include their name. Are you dedicating your flowers in thankfulness for something? If so, include that detail. Finally, indicate whether you plan to mail us your payment or drop it off at the church. Questions? Contact Brandi or Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org). THANK YOU!

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

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 REMINDER If you made a change to your pledged giving for 2021, don't forget to adjust your giving amount. Especially if you do automatic giving through your bank, remember to adjust your payments accordingly. Thank you!

MEN'S CLUB will probably meet in some way this coming Saturday, March 13, in the morning. Stay tuned for further info from Ron Obara.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

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, Wednesdays 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. IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST, in addition to the online meetings, a few of us could meet in-person on this same topic. Contact Pastor Hope right away if you're interested, so we can coordinate.

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 for any upcoming Sundays. If you would like to sign up or having any questions, please email Kelli 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).

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: DAILY READINGS ON SUNDAY'S TEXT

Lost Sheep, Coin, Son

Luke 15:1-32

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 Dishonest Manager

Luke 16:1-13

❖ What good wisdom can you share about honesty?

Tuesday: The Law and the Kingdom of God

Luke 16:14-18

❖ What is the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law?

Wednesday: The Divine Shepherd

Psalms 23

❖ How does this psalm relate, for you, with the Parable of the Lost Sheep? What do these texts tell you about who God is?

Thursday: Lost Sheep

Jeremiah 50:5-7

❖ Has anyone ever led you astray? How do you become "found" once you've been lost?

Friday: The Joy of Forgiveness

Psalms 32:1-7

❖ What does receiving forgiveness feel like to you? Try writing a psalm or poem about it

Saturday: Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-22

❖ What is your limit for forgiving someone? How many times is too many?

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PRAYERS FOR MARCH 7, 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: Valerie Connerty (March 9), Phyllis Kazimier (March 12)

CONCERNS

Those still without water in Mississippi

Cheryl Kazimier's cousin, Ralph

Those living with homelessness around us

Those struggling with loneliness and sadness

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers and staff; 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)