

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ**

Our Church at Worship on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 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

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG "I Woke up This Morning"

Verse 1: I woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Verse 2: Singing and praying with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Jeffrey Radford (1993) | African-American spiritual CCLI License No. 1908882

CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER

Nicki Carter

One: Come! Listen to the call of the Lord!

All: We will answer God's call together.

One: Come! We are God's chosen instrument.

All: We trust God to give us all the skills we need to serve.

One: Come! Let us declare the name of the Lord.

**All: We will worship God together,
with hearts and hands and voices.**

One: Let us pray:

**All: God, our Parent, we come today
to sing your praise, to hear your word,
to listen for your quiet voice,
to know you, and ourselves, better.**

One: Help us to see and hear your call to us;

**All: help us to seek you in our every day,
and to respond with faith when we see or hear you.**

One: Forgive us those times we forget your call,
or choose to ignore it for our own desires.

**All: Forgive us those times we've tuned out your call,
or pretended we didn't see you,
because we were afraid of what you would ask of us.**

One: Open our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds,
to all that you would call us to.

**All: Help us face our fears, and answer your call.
Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Who You Say That I Am"

Kim May

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost, but He brought me in

Oh His love for me, Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free,

Oh, is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me

Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free,

Oh is free indeed,

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am...

Songwriters: Jason Ingram, Jonathan Lindley Smith, Ben Cantelon,
Benji Cowart; © Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Songtrust Ave,
Essential Music Publishing; CCLI License No. 1908882

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 119:14-18

I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.
Deal bountifully with your servant,
so that I may live and observe your word.
Open my eyes, so that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

The Acts of the Apostles 9:1-20 (21-22)

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

MESSAGE Through Law & Love, God Transforms

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN Called as Partners in Christ's Service #495

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral 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.**

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.

HYMN "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" #55

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Send me, Jesus" #360

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Jesus, send me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me Jesus, lead me, Lord.

Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me Jesus, fill me, Lord.

CHURCH NEWS

FOR LEARNING

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 Acts 11:1-18.

FOR SERVICE

COMMUNITY CHURCH PLANT SALE

May 21, 8AM to 4PM in the church yard

Items for sale include: Variegated Hostas, Peonies, Purple Irises, Ornamental Grasses, and more!

\$10 each

Contact Mike Kennedy if you have other perennials to donate to this sale or if you can volunteer an hour or two on May 21 to help with the sale.

Other small craft items that we could sell are also welcome. Again, talk to Mike if you plan to donate. Reach him at 815-528-0127.

GIFT CARDS: Our Gift Card Fundraiser continues constantly. Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You get the full amount of the gift card AND the church gets a percentage for each card you buy. Penny reminds us that she's not keeping very many cards in stock right now, but the turn-around is very quick on them; they're usually here within 3-4 days of you ordering them. You can contact her at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks for your support!

SUPPORT AREA VETERANS: The McHenry County Dept of Health is sponsoring Operation Dropbox to benefit Veteran's Path to Hope in Crystal Lake. Through May, you can drop off non-perishable food items, paper products, personal hygiene products and new socks for men and women. Dropboxes are available at Angelo's grocery store in Richmond, the McHenry VFW Post on Route 120, and St. John Catholic Church in Johnsburg, as well as many other area sites, now through the end of May.

FOR CONNECTION

ALL CONFERENCE CHATS: Each Wednesday at 3PM, the Illinois Conference of the UCC hosts a Zoom conversation. These chats cover many different topics and are open to anyone. These chats are a great way to connect to new people in our church circle. You can access this weekly Zoom meeting with Meeting ID 879 6243 0629 and Passcode 284065.

FOOD WITH FRIENDS: A fun new chance for small group connection. Sign up with Elise Livingston and she'll pair your household with one other household for a dinner together. Then in about 6 weeks, she'll pair you up with a different household for another dinner opportunity. The goal is simply to connect with church friends in a slow, simple way like sharing a meal with one other household. Each paired-up household will have lots of freedom about making the plan that works best for them, so if you are at all interested, contact Elise to get signed up or see signup sheet in lounge!

UPDATES FROM CHURCH CABINET:

- The Cabinet has chosen AUGUST 13 for this year's BEEF ROAST! Mark your calendar now! This year we hope to host a "hybrid" event with tables set up outside under the big tent for those who'd like to eat here, and with drive-thru option still available. We will need your help!
- In April, we received an average of \$2761/week in offerings; our budgeted spending is about \$3200/week. We ended the month with about \$166,000 in our non-endowment accounts.
- Cabinet plans to meet in-person for our June meeting.

COVID UPDATES: Masks are currently optional at worship and church gatherings (though we do still ask the choir to mask when they sing their anthems).

We continue to ask that you stay home if you're feeling sick and that you maintain a healthy distance from other households when you choose your seats for worship.

We will watch public health conditions and to make decisions about our community's standards based on Jesus command to love each other and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Cases have been slowly but steadily rising in our area in the past month. Our "community spread" is rated as medium by CDC guidelines. Pastor Hope watches COVID statistics at

https://covidactnow.org/us/illinois-il/county/mc_henry_county

WORDS OF THANKS: Dear Community Church Congregation, Thank you is not sufficient to express our gratitude for your generous donations to our Compassion for Campers program. Your members have been so supportive of our work with our homeless neighbors since the C4C program began. Thank you, and blessings to you! On behalf of the Social Justice Team at Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Church, Sue Rekenenthaler

P. S. I grew up attending the joint youth group in Richmond – The Community Church continues to live their beliefs!

AND Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Wider Missions No-Bake Bake Sale. We received over \$300 which Missions will put to good use!

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

May 15 (Today)

Liturgist	Nicki Carter
Video Director	Judy Jooss
Usher/Greeter	Dick Strahs
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher

May 22

Liturgist	Mike Kennedy
Video Director	Nicki Carter
Greeter/Usher	
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher
Special Music	Chancel Choir

May 29

Guest Preacher	Pastor Kathy Karch
Liturgist	Robert Richardson
Video Director	
Online Connector	
Greeter/Usher	

June 5 - Festival of Pentecost

Liturgist	Kathy Speaker
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Communion Setup	Kathy Karch
Special Music	Chancel Choir
Other Readers	

PRAYERS for the Week of May 15, 2022

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: Margaret Molozaiy (May 16)

PRAYERS FOR:

Brandi's Husband, Bryan
Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly DeSalvo
Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca
Patt Clymer, friend of the Molozaiys

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Prayer Partners:

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Debbie Franzone.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ, Burr Ridge United Church of Christ in Burr Ridge, IL, and their Pastor, Alicia Reese.

Our Mission Partner is the Pioneer Center for Human Services in McHenry. Pioneer Center is a private, non-profit charitable organization, providing programs for people with developmental disabilities, behavioral health services and homeless shelter needs to the McHenry County community. For more information visit: www.pioneercenter.org/

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

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

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

55

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

1 Re - joi - ce, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
 2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
 3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
 5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
 Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
 Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
 From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain

Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing.
 Re - joi - ce Re - joi - ce

This hymn, inspired by Philipians 4:4, was written for the Choral Festival held at Peterborough Cathedral in England. The author was an Anglican priest and a professor of theology at Oxford University.

Tune: MARION S.M. with refrain
 Arthur H. Messiter, 1883
 For an alternate setting, see 71
 Alternate tune: CHRISTPRAISE RAY