

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16, 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

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

GATHERING SONG

"Here in this Place"

**Holy One, may Your presence here open our minds.
May Your Spirit among us help us to find
You are rising up now like a fountain of grace
from the holy ground
here in this place.
Here in this place.**

Repeat from beginning

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy, Copy right ©2008 All rights reserved. Used by permission CCLI 1908882

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Moloziay

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Acts 16:9-15)

Mike Anderson

One: Outside the city gate a farmer rises early so that there will be eggs and bacon and cereal and milk on our tables. As we gather today to give God thanks,

All: we ask a blessing on the farmer.

One: Outside the city gate a resort owner throws open the windows and a housekeeper changes the bed so that we might rest in the shade of the tree which grows beside living waters. As we gather today to give God thanks,

All: we ask a blessing on the resort owner and the housekeeper.

One: Outside the city gate a road crew patches over the wear of winter so that we will be safe as we travel past field and forest and stream. As we gather today to give God thanks,

All: we ask a blessing on the road crew.

One: Outside the city gate a migrant worker bends over a field so that our bodies will be nourished with nutrient rich food from the soil of the earth. As we gather today to give God thanks,

All: we ask a blessing on the migrant worker.

One: On this Sabbath day we honor those outside the gate by river, field, mountain, forest and ocean. In this place of prayer we give thanks, O God of All Creation,

All: and ask a blessing on all who care for your Creation.

One: Let us pray:
 O God, We worship with expectation,
 hungry to encounter with You and eager to hear Your Word.
 May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning
 fall on fertile soil.
 May they take root in our hearts and lives,
 and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.
 We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord.
 Amen.

OPENING HYMN "From All that Dwell Beneath the Skies" #27

Verse 1: **From all that dwell below the skies
 Let the creator's praise arise;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Let the redeemer's name be sung
 Through every land, by every tongue.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Verse 2: **Eternal are your mercies, God;
 Your truth stands ever high and broad:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
 Till sun shall rise and set no more.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#27, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Isaac Watts, 1718; Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne 1623

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise God in the heights!
 Praise God, all you angels;
 praise God, all you host!

Praise God, sun and moon;
 praise God, all you shining stars!
 Praise God, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for God commanded and they were created.
 God established them forever and ever;
 God fixed their boundaries, which cannot be
 passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps,
 fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
 Wild animals and all cattle,
 creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the earth!
 Young men and women alike,
 old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for God's name alone is exalted;
 God's glory is above earth and heaven.
 God has raised up a horn for God's people,
 praise for all the faithful,
 for the people of Israel who are close to God.
 Praise the Lord!

WORD FOR ALL AGES – How many seeds in the apple? That we can know. How many apples in the seed? Only God can know.

SONG RESPONSE “Let Everything That Has Breath”

CHORUS

**Let ev'rything that... ev'rything that...
Ev'rything that has breath, praise the Lord
Let ev'rything that... ev'rything that...
Ev'rything that has breath, praise the Lord**

VERSE 1

**Praise You in the morning, praise You in the evening;
Praise You when I'm young and when I'm old;
Praise You when I'm laughing, praise You when I'm grieving;
Praise You ev'ry season of the soul.**

BRIDGE

**If we could see how much You're worth;
Your pow'r, Your might, Your endless love.
Then surely we would never cease to praise You.**

CHORUS

**Let ev'rything that... ev'rything that...
Ev'rything that has breath, praise the Lord
Let ev'rything that... ev'rything that...
Ev'rything that has breath, praise the Lord**

VERSE 2

**Praise You in the heavens, joining with the angels,
Praising You forever and a day;
Praise You on the earth now, joining with creation
Calling all the nations to Your praise.**

BRIDGE

CHORUS

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Prophet Joel 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,

he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you, and my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

The Acts of the Apostles 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

MESSAGE

Outside the City Gate

HYMN

"This is My Father's World"

RED HYMNAL #33

Verse 1:

**This is my Father's world; and to my listening ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.**

Verse 2:

**This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.**

#33, United Church of Christ Hymnal; Terra Beta SMD Traditional English Melody; Adapted by Franklin L Sheppard 1915

BLESSING FOR FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Let us give thanks to God: For the wonder of the changing season and the ever-new miracle of life stirring in the field and forest,

Thank you, O God.

For the privilege of sharing with you in the act of creating the good things of earth for your children, and for your nearness in all the phases of agricultural life,

Thank you, O God.

For the Christ of the country road, who walked and served in the countryside of galilee, and who today walks the backroads of the world in comradeship with those who till the soil,

Thank you, O God.

For the coming of seed-time, for good soil, for abundant rains,

Thank you, O God.

For the friendship which prompts farmers to share tools and labor,

Thank you, O God.

For neighbors who help when sickness or death, old age or new life come to us,

Thank you, O God.

For better seeds, better methods, and other helps to us who farm the land,

Thank you, O God.

For farmer's cooperatives and other community associations,

Thank you, O God.

For the blessings of sleep and the renewed strength of awakening in the morning,

Thank you, O God.

That you will grant us a vision of the earth redeemed and used as a sacred trust for the welfare of all your great family on earth,

Hear us, O God.

That you will give us skills in planting and tending our crops and caring for our herds,

Hear us, O God.

That you will give us strength and health and knowledge of your laws, so that our bodies may be useful in your service,

Hear us, O God.

That you will bless the rural churches of the world and their ministers, that their fellowship may be enriched and that they may bring their neighbors into lasting fellowship with you,

Hear us, O God.

That you will speedily grant a just and lasting peace in all the earth, that people everywhere may again beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks, and live together in harmony and tranquility in the lands you have given them,

Hear us, O God.

That all may share with joy in sowing the seed and reaping the harvest of the Kingdom of God,

We dedicate our hands and minds.

To a renewed appreciation of the holy earth and its gifts, and to faithful and generous stewardship of all its resources, material and human,

We dedicate our hands and minds.

To comradeship with the rural peoples of the world, and to sharing with them generously all the gifts and graces you have given us,

We dedicate our hands and minds.

Accept our thanks, hear our prayers, and graciously use the gifts of mind, body, and soul, which we now lay upon your altar, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 "Doxology"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

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... **Accept our lives, O God, as well as our gifts. Let the spirit in which we give them be your Spirit. Let the use that is made of them be your use. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Something Beautiful for God"

Chorus:

**Today let us do something beautiful for God!
Do something small, but do it with great love.
Do what we can, where we are, with what we got.
Today, let us do something beautiful for God!**

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POSTLUDE

Call, Worship ways 2011; Opening prayer, Christine Longhurst, for re:Worship; Prayer of Dedication, Chalice Worship, Chalice Press, 1997, #526; "For Farmers and their families," in Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer, compiled by Jeffery W. Rowthorn, from Rural People at Worship, 1943; Music copyright, CCLI 1908882.

NEW NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY has ended for now. We give thanks for all the children and families and teachers from our church, along with Community Protestant UCC and Ivanhoe UCC, both in Mundelein, who were able to connect and have fun and learn in faith through this time.

Families and regular Sunday School teachers: Stay tuned for news about some in-person, outdoor, fellowship activities over the summer.

UPDATES FROM CABINET

+ We're planning on holding our first outdoor worship service together on June 13. We'll share more details about HOW we'll do that over the next couple weeks, but for now, circle the date and find your lawn chairs!

+ This year's Beef Roast will be held on August 14. We expect to heavily feature drive-thru service like we did last year. We hope to also offer some outdoor seating options.

We need your donations of new, 8-ounce, glass canning jars for the Beef Roast pickles! Keep an eye out at places like WalMart for those jars. You can drop them off at the church. If you have jars that have been used for pickles in years past, you can also bring those back to church and they can be sanitized and re-used.

+ The next Blood Drive at our church is June 8, from 3:00-7:00 – save the date!

+ With the deposit of our second PPP loan, we ended April with about \$52,000 in our regular bank account. Our non-endowment assets total around \$200,000.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Penny Kraft regularly places orders of gift cards on our behalf, and the church gets a percentage of the cost of those cards. As you might be starting to get out into the world more often again, remember that there is a HUGE variety of gift cards available, from specialty stores to gas stations and grocery stores. Jewel, Walmart, Meijer, Marathon Gas, SO MANY RESTAURANTS, department stores, etc. Though the percentages might seem small, small bits can add up to a meaningful contribution to the church, and are especially great with places that you're going to shop at anyway. (Remember, you get the full value of the gift card; the church gets our donation when you purchase the card, whether you lose, spend, or whatever.) Find the full list of participating retailers at

<https://www.shopwithscrip.com/shopwithscrip-retailers>. Contact Penny with your order any time by calling/texting her at 815-236-6172 or emailing her at mriapk@gmail.com.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Hey! How did those people get to go to the sanctuary for worship?! They contacted Kelli Brossart at kellibrossart@gmail.com. We remain cautious and follow all CDC and State of Illinois guidelines, including wearing a mask, 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. We are taking 'reservations' now for upcoming Sundays. If you would like to sign up, email Kelli. You'll be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. You'll receive an email reminder before the Sunday you are scheduled to attend. We know this is not a replacement for "regular" church, but we hope it provides a chance to reconnect with our beautiful worship space.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thanks, all you "snow sponsors and "snowmen" and "snow-women" for supporting our snow clearing costs from this past winter. Even with our efforts to reduce the needed services, we've still had to pay over \$2000 in 2021 for snow removal

Through special gifts from thirteen households, we've received \$1600 toward those costs! – Thank you!

If others of you still want to contribute, 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!

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.

PRAYERS FOR MAY 16, 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: Margaret Molozaiy (May 16)

CONCERNS

Family members struggling with cancer and other health concerns

For Afghanistan

For Israel and Palestine, and the peace of Jerusalem

Carol Sligting’s great-grandson, Aiden

Deann Workmon

Julie Leighninger

Bill Haase’s daughter, Barb, facing health concerns

Dawn Conley’s mother, Diane

Debbie Franzone’s brother-in-law, George

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Those whose household relationships are strained

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)