

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

Our Church at Worship on the Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 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/>

This morning's worship is led by The Rev. Kathy Karch. Pastor Kathy, as she is known, is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a member of our congregation.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Kathy Karch

GATHERING SONG "Come, Holy Spirit, Come"

Come Holy Spirit come, come Holy Spirit come.

**Come as the fire and burn, come as the light and reveal,
come as the wind and cleanse**

Convict us..., show us Your way;

Convert us..., day after day.

Consecrate us, until we're wholly Thine. (repeat 1X)

In Christ's precious name we pray.

Words and Music by Bryan Sirchio

One: In many and various ways,
at different times and places,
the all-powerful God calls us to pray and sing.

**All: With joy in our hearts,
we'll pray and praise together,
for nothing is impossible with God.**

One: Let us pray.
Lord of the stillness and of song,
you can meet us in every experience of life:
the boring and the bizarre.

**All: We praise You today, in the songs we sing,
in our moments of quiet,
and as we listen to your Word.**

One: We confess there are times our words and actions
leave others vulnerable or held captive;
there are times we ignore your power in the world.

**All: Lord, in your mercy,
drive out all that is wrong and ill-judged in our lives.**

One: Grow in us a sense of awe and appreciation:
in both you as the Creator and for all that you create.

**All: Let our hearts sing in praise, for we have been rescued
and set free by your mercy.
Release us into the world to serve you in all things.
In the name of Jesus, our Lord, amen.**

HYMN

"I Love to tell the Story"

#522

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 97

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.

All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!
Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, Lord.
For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
Let those who love the Lord hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.

The Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the

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! Pastor Hope is On Vacation this week, so there will be none.

FOR SERVICE

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!

BLOOD DRIVE – Tuesday, June 7, 3:30-7:30 PM here at the church. Save the date for this life-saving event.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Lead Summer Sunday School – As we're trying to get back to more of our regular offerings around church, we ask for your help in supporting Summer Sunday School. Our focus over the summer is simply on the chance for the children and some grown-ups they might not normally spend time with to have a little fun in the name of Jesus.

Teachers sign up for one Sunday at a time and are encouraged to choose an activity they would enjoy doing with the kids. Make a craft. Or take the kids outside to color the sidewalks with messages of love. Play them a bit of a movie or a VeggieTales story (suggestions available from Pastor Hope) while they do some coloring. Make a simple snack or cookies with them downstairs in the church kitchen. Teach them about knitting or braiding or teach them something about the plants outside the church building or about some other interest of yours. Read them a favorite Bible story, or teach them one of your favorite church songs (Play it for them on Youtube if you don't want to sing it!). The idea is just for some grown-ups of the church to spend some time with some children of the church doing something they enjoy.

BONUS: The family members of our church children do a lot of the Sunday School teaching during the program year; give those parents

a gift and show them you value having their families here by signing up to lead Summer Sunday School. The sign-up sheet is in the lounge, and Pastor Hope would always be excited to help you plan your class. THANK YOU for your support!

FOR CONNECTION

PENTECOST IS COMING – You might remember that we like to make a joyful festival on Pentecost, the celebration of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples in Jerusalem and energizing them for their gospel mission. Pentecost this year is June 5. Because the color RED is traditionally associated with the Holy Spirit, on this day, you're encouraged to wear red, and to bring a red candle that we can place on the table up front and light during worship. New this year, we also invite you to bring a red food to share with the food pantry – try to think along the lines of tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti O's... not just red candy. 😊 We'll also celebrate the work of the Spirit among our congregation that day: Who's service to this church are you particularly grateful for these days? Think about it and watch for the how the Spirit is moving among us in these next weeks before Pentecost.

SUMMER FAMILY FUN – The Youth Education team has a planned a few fun outings for the summer months. Our first event will be a Nature Walk at Glacial Park on Sunday, June 19, after worship. The Youth Education team will provide a simple lunch (Probably from Subway.) downstairs after worship, and then we'll head over to Glacial Park for our walk. This event is open to everyone in the church. Please sign up by Sunday, June 12, if you plan to join us – there's a sign-up sheet at the front of the sanctuary or contact Jean Valsa at 309-212-0902.

More summer fun is planned for July 9 and August 7 – stay tuned for details!

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

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Did you know? If you run out of supplies upstairs, please feel free to go downstairs to the elevator room. There are shelves on the left side of the room. On the shelves to the far right are the replacements. Please do not purchase any items without checking the supplies! The money in the jar can be put in an envelope and placed in the Kitchen mailbox in the hall. There are blank envelopes in the box. If you notice a shortage of anything downstairs, please either write a note and place it in the Kitchen mailbox or contact Kathy Speaker. 815-382-4340 or kspeaker@charter.net We like for the money collected in the jar to pay for any supplies rather than take it out of the general fund. Thanks to all who contribute to the “jar”!

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

May 29 (Today)

Guest Preacher	Pastor Kathy Karch
Liturgist	Robert Richardson
Video Director	Nicki Carter
Online Connector	Ronnie Obara
Greeter/Usher	

June 5 - Festival of Pentecost

Liturgist	Ron Obara, Nicki Carter, Kathy Karch, Mike Kennedy
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Video Director

Greeter/Usher

Communion Setup	Kathy Karch
Special Music	Chancel Choir

Other Readers

June 12

Liturgist	George Zimmermann
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Video Director

Greeter/Usher

Sunday School

Fellowship Hosts

PRAYERS for the Week of May 29, 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: We rejoice with James Brossart on his graduation from Richmond-Burton High School last week. Blessings on your next steps forward, James!

PRAYERS FOR:

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 Grace Haskins.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ, St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Crystal Lake and their Pastor, Gregory P. Lucas

Our Mission Partner is the Richmond Senior Transport:

Richmond Senior transportation: Many of our communities' older adults are unable to access transportation for several reasons. Some can no longer drive safely. We are determined to eliminate the barriers that keep seniors and disabled people from accessing reliable, affordable transportation in order for them to receive crucial services and having some measure of independence and dignity. For More Information visit: [McHenry, McHenry County - Senior Services Associates, Inc.](#) and click on services: Then click on the Transportation tab.

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), Bob Krueger (Libertyville)

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Born in Clapham, England, Katherine Hankey belonged to the Clapham Sect of Evangelicals and established a Bible class for girls in London's West End. This hymn is drawn from her extended poem on the life of Jesus, which also contains "Tell me the old, old story."

Tune: HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D. with refrain
 William G. Fischer, 1869

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love,
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

Sing Them Over Again to Me

(Wonderful Words of Life)

Philip P. Bliss, 1874; alt.

1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;
 2 Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;
 3 Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;

let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life;
 sin - ner, wake to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life;

Words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.
 All so free - ly giv - en, our sure hope of heav - en.
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, keep me with you for - ev - er.

Refrain

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

Philip Bliss wrote this text and tune for the first issue of Words of Life (1874). A few years later it was sung as a duet during an evangelistic campaign and became popular immediately.

Tune: WORDS OF LIFE C.M. with refrain
 Philip P. Bliss, 1874