

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 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

“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 Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Zofia Obara

One: We gather today because Christ has claimed us;
we are called to be the body of Christ.

**All: Who are we to make such a claim?
Who would see Jesus when they look at us?**

One: It's not our claim that brings us together;
the church is not our private club.

**All: We don't just join in worship for ourselves;
we're drawn together by a larger purpose.**

One: We've been called by Christ for a mission;
we're sent to be his hands and feet in the world.

**All: We're ready to be equipped for ministry;
we accept Christ's call to be apostles of good news.**

One: Let us pray: Appear to us again, risen Savior, for we have lost sight of you.
We come to find you in this gathering, so we may recognize you among all who suffer.
We seek your wisdom to cope with the confusion we face every day.
We gather to remember the authority with which you spoke, so we may walk
amid the leaders of our day with the courage to speak in Christ's name.
We who want to be your body, the church, need the eyes of our hearts enlightened,
so we may once again embrace hope and know your joy.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Verse 1:

**Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice - organ and trumpet and voice -
joining God’s great congregation.**

Verse 2:

**Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who as on eagles’ wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved
by God’s parental affection?**

Verse 3:

**Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.**

Verse 4:

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
Amen, amen, never ending.**

#22, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Joachim Neander, 1680; Tune: Erneuertem Gesangbuch, 1665; Adt. W. S. Bennett, 1863

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 68:1-6, 32 (New Revised Standard Version)

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;

let those who hate God flee.

As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;

as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

But let the righteous be joyful;

let them exult before God;

let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name;

lift up a song to the one who rides upon the clouds—

his name is the Lord – be exultant before him.

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

God gives the desolate a home to live in;

he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

... Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

WORD FOR ALL AGES

God asks us to keep on telling the stories of Jesus and of what God has done – what’s your favorite story of Jesus? When’s the last time you told it to someone? Find some time to tell it this week.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“In Christ Alone”

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; 2001 © Capitol Christian Music Group; CCLI 1908882

Verse 1: In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 3: There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 2: In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 4: No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

SCRIPTURE READING The Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

MESSAGE

Being the Church in Times of Trauma

SONG RESPONSE

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

#277 New Century Hymnal; Lyrics Reginald Heber, 1826; Tune: John Dykes, 1861

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (we pray together)

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SONG RESPONSE "Holy, Holy, Holy"

**Holy, holy, holy, though we know but dimly,
though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

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 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” #347

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 his table he set 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 Immanuel everywhere!**

Repeat Refrain

#347, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Fred Kaan, 1975; Tune: Jamaican folk song Adapt. Doreen Potter 1975

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 “Something Beautiful for God”

**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!**

Words and Music by: Bryan Sirchio, ©2007 Crosswind Music Used by permission.

POSTLUDE

Call, and Opening Prayer, adp from Lavon Baylor, Led by Love, Worship Resources for Year B, 1996, p. 100 and p. 98; Prayer of Dedication, adp. from Spill the Beans, Issue 21, pp. 80 and 70; Confession and Prayer of Thanksgiving, UCC Book of Worship, p. 74; Music copyright, CCLI 1908882

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP TOGETHER? Pastor Hope is planning on offering in-person, outdoor worship by the end of May. We'll practice extra caution because of our love and respect for each other. We'll also keep an eye on public health measures like the COVID positivity rate in McHenry County. Stay tuned for details, and continue to do your part – Keep wearing your mask. Keep your safe distance from people. Get your vaccine as you can. If you have health concerns about the vaccine, talk with your doctor for their advice.

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.

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.)

(Buy a \$25 gift card, the church instantly gets \$2.) <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/shopwithscrip-retailers>. And you can contact Penny with your order any time by calling/texting her at 815-236-6172 or emailing her at mriapk@gmail.com.

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 nearly \$1900 in 2021 for snow removal. (No, they didn’t plow the parking lot, but they did still shovel much of our sidewalk, which we felt was the right thing to do for our neighbors in town as well having safe access to the office entrance. And the shoveling is the expensive part.)

Through special gifts from eight households, we’ve received \$700 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY continues at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

PRAYERS FOR MAY 2, 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: Elise Livingston (May 3), Rob Richardson (May 6)

CONCERNS

Julie Leighninger

Bill Haase's daughter, Barb, facing health concerns

Dawn Conley's mother, Diane

Deann Workmon

Debbie Franzone's brother-in-law, George

Pastor Hope's aunt, Liz Boehne

All who are worried about the health of loved ones and family members

Leaders trying to make wise decisions

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)