

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on Trinity Sunday
May 30, 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

"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 from the beginning

In Christ's precious name we pray.

Words and Music by Bryan Sirchio, Crosswinds Music, used with permission.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nicki Carter

One: To comfort us in suffering, and cheer us in our sorrow:

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

One: To encourage us in our failings, and persuade us in our doubting:

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

One: To exhort us when we tire and urge us forward to follow Christ:

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

One: Let us pray:

Saving God, we worship today to remember you love us and this world.

Let our worship fill us with strength, so even in these times, we will share our faith with others and stand up for what we believe. Forgive us when we are not your faithful witnesses, when we refuse to see oppression, when we leave words of love unsaid.

Help us and guide us. Remind us you are ever loving, ever forgiving, ever present with us. Amen.

Verse 1:

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

Verse 2:

**Holy, holy, holy, saints adore you truly,
 Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
 Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,
 From the beginning God eternally.**

Verse 3:

**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!**

#277 New Century Hymnal; Tune St. Anne., William Croft, 1708;

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 8

One: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You've set your glory above the heavens.
 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
 you've founded a bulwark against your foes,
 to silence the enemy and the avenger.

All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name!

One: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars that you have established;
 what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
 or mortals that you care for them?

All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name!

One: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
 and crowned them with glory and honor.
 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under their feet,
 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name!

One: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SONG RESPONSE

“Never Let Go”

Kim May and Penny Kraft

Verse:

When clouds veil sun and disaster comes
 - Oh, my soul, Oh, my soul
 When waters rise and hope takes flight
 - Oh, my soul, Oh, my soul, Oh, my soul

Chorus: Ever faithful, Ever true
 You I know, You never let go
 You never let go
 You never let go
 You never let go

Verse:

When clouds brought rain and disaster came
 - Oh, my soul, Oh, my soul
 When waters rose and hope had flown
 - Oh, my soul, Oh, my soul, Oh, my soul

Repeat Chorus

Bridge

Oh, my soul overflows
 Oh, what love, oh, what love
 Oh, my soul fills with hope
 Perfect love that never lets go

Repeat Chorus

Oh, what love, oh, what love
 Oh, what love, oh, what love
 In joy and pain, in sun and rain
 You're the same, Oh, You never let go

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SCRIPTURE READING

The Acts of the Apostles 6:7-7:2a, 44-60

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?” And Stephen replied: ...

“Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says,

‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the

right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

MESSAGE Finding Ourselves in the Bible’s Violent Stories: Conflict and Curiosity

HYMN “We Who Would Valiant Be” #494

Verse 1: **We who would valiant be: let us not waver,
But in true constancy follow the Savior.
There’s no discouragement shall make us once relent
Our first avowed intent to live as pilgrims.**

Verse 2: **Those who may us surround with dismal stories
Only themselves confound: our strength the more is.
No foes shall give us fright, ours is the one true Light;
We will make good our right to live as pilgrims.**

Verse 3: **Since, Savior, you defend us with your Spirit,
We know we at the end shall life inherit.
Cruel rumors, flee away! We’ll fear not what they say;
We’ll labor night and day to live as pilgrims.**

#494, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: St. Dunstan’s, C. Winfred Douglas 1917; John Bunyan, 1684

PASTORAL PRAYER

Our prayer for this morning has 3 separate responses: in the first part of the prayer, your response is “Thank you, God;” in the second part, your response is “Deliver us, o God;” in the third part, your response is “God, renew this nation.”

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 “When the Lord’s in You”

**When the Lord's in you, and the Lord's in me,
there's a bridge between our spirits, wherever we may be.
'Til we meet again, let us hold the Mystery of the Lord in you and me.**

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

POSTLUDE

Opening prayer, adp from Spill the Beans, Issue 22, p. 89; Pastoral prayer taken from The Wideness of God’s Mercy, p. 292; adp from The Worshipbook, 1970. Music copyright, CCLI 1908882.

NEW NEWS

COME TO OUTDOOR WORSHIP!

- + June 13 and June 20, weather-permitting.
- + Bring your own lawn chair and your mask.
- + We’ll gather on the west lawn – NOT where we’ve had outdoor worship before but on the lawn closest to West Ave, near the entrance to the office wing of the building.
- + We won’t have the large tent that we’ve used before, but it is acceptable to bring your hat, your sunglasses, your small sun parasol, etc.

After those two weeks, we’ll return to online-only worship for a couple weeks while Pastor Hope is on vacation. Then we’ll take what we learned from our June outdoor worship and look forward to more gatherings soon.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

SAVE THE DATES

BEEF ROAST August 14. We expect to heavily feature drive-thru service like we did last year. We hope to also offer some outdoor seating.

Meanwhile, we need 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.

BLOOD DRIVE The next Blood Drive at our church is June 8, from 3:00-7:00.

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.

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 30, 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.*

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

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)