

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 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

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

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

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

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:

Holy Risen One, we gather this day and we come as we are:
with what faith and what questions we have.
Accept all we bring to worship today.
Accept our worship, we pray. Amen.

Verse 1: **God of the ages, who with sure command
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor though the skies,
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

Verse 3: **From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,
With steadfast care be ever our defense;
Your love and faith within our hearts increase;
With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

Verse 4: **Refresh your people on life’s toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
With truth and love guide us through errors maze,
And we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.**

#592, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: National Hymn | George William Warren, 1892

SCRIPTURE READINGS Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

The Acts of the Apostles 1:12-17, 21-26

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ...

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

HYMN

"By Gracious Powers"

#413

Verse 1:

**By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
And confidently waiting, come what may,
We know that God is with us night and morning,
And never fails to greet us each new day.**

Verse 2:

**Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
For which, O God, you taught us to prepare.**

Verse 3:

**And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
With bitter sorrow, hard to understand,
We take it thankfully and without trembling,
Out of so good and so beloved a hand.**

Verse 4:

**Yet when again in this same world you give us
The joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall remember all the days we lived through,
And our whole life shall then be yours alone.**

#413, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Bonhoeffer | Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976
Harm. Jan Helmut Wubben 1976

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.

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!**

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

POSTLUDE

Call, adp from Lavon Baylor, Led by Love, Worship Resources for Year B, 1996, p. 100; Opening Prayer, Spill the Beans, Issue 22, p. 89; Prayer of Dedication, Chalice Worship, Chalice Press, 1997, #526; Music copyright, CCLI 1908882.

NEW NEWS

CHURCH CABINET meets tomorrow night, May 10, at 7:00. If you have business the Cabinet needs to discuss, contact Pastor Hope or President Charles Kemp. Pastor Hope will send out the Zoom link to Cabinet tomorrow.

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 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.

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. (Yes, that did go up; we often get the bills for the clearing a while after the actual snow.)

Through special gifts from eleven households, we've received \$1200 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 will take off this coming week and resume again next Tuesday.

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 9, 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: Marcia Becker (May 13)

We celebrate with the Obara family as Tiana graduates from the University of Wisconsin. Tiana sends this update: I am graduating the University of Wisconsin Madison with a Bachelors of Science in Chemical and Biological Engineering, emphasizing my degree in environmental studies. My post-graduation plans involve working at Pfizer as a Global Technology and Engineering Rotational Development Associate. I will be rotating through different teams and positions within Global Technology and Engineering so that I can grow in multiple fields and find where I can make the biggest positive impact in this industry. Thank you to you all who have been by my side growing up and who will continue to support me through this next step in my career! On Wisconsin!

** If there is someone in your life graduating this spring and you would like to share their celebration with us, pass their information along to Pastor Hope or Brandi.**

CONCERNS

Deann Workmon

Julie Leighninger

Bill Haase's daughter, Barb, facing health concerns

Dawn Conley's mother, Diane

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)

THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF MOTHERING

by Amy Young

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child this year - we mourn with you.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stain – we appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms – we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children – we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year—we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – we acknowledge your experience.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who have aborted children – we remember them and you.

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children – we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

To those who stepparent – we walk with you on these complex paths.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be – we grieve with you.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you.

To those who placed children up for adoption – we commend you and remember how you hold that child in your heart.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising – we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you.

Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.