

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
November 14, 2021 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/>

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

GATHERING MUSIC

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG “How Great is Our God”

Kim May

VERSE 1: **The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to  
hide;  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His  
voice**

CHORUS: **How great is our God, sing with me, how great is  
our God  
And all will see how great, how great is our God**

VERSE 2: **And age to age He stands, and time is in His  
hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son;  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.**

CHORUS 2X

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Jean Valsa

One: Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,  
meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

**All: Let us walk his way with joy.**

One: Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,  
letting go of our security.

**All: Let us walk his way with joy.**

One: Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices  
of those who have nothing to lose.

**All: Let us walk his way with joy.**

One: Jesus points us to a way of self-giving,  
where power and status are overturned.

**All: Let us walk his way with joy.**

One: Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,  
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

**All: Let us walk his way with joy.**

One: Let us pray:  
Righteous One, to you alone we lift our souls;  
in you alone we place our trust;  
for you alone we wait all day long.  
For you are the God of our salvation,  
abounding in mercy and steadfast love.  
Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your  
promised one—  
the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing  
near to bring our salvation.  
Amen.

HYMN “Now Let Us All, In Hymns of Praise” #529

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to John 6:66-69

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

SCRIPTURE READING The Prophet Jeremiah 36:1-8,21-23,27-28

In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the

days of Josiah until today. It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him. And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the Lord; so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the Lord's house you shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns. It may be that their plea will come before the Lord, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord has pronounced against this people." And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the Lord in the Lord's house.

... Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

... Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned.

MESSAGE      Advice for Prophets from the Soccer Field

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN            "Come, O Thankful People, Come"            #422

## TIME OF PRAYER

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.**

## THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time!

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

Prayer of Dedication

Write on our hearts, Lord, your way of living; may it dwell within our hearts so we would be your servants in all that we are, in all that we do, in all that we give, in all that we offer. Bless now these offerings given with generosity and grace that they might be used in the service of your kingdom. Amen.

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "God Be With You"

**God be with you 'til we meet again:  
By good counsel, guide, uphold you;  
With a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you 'til we meet again.  
'Til we meet, 'til we meet, 'til we meet at Jesus' feet.  
'Til we meet, 'til we meet,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.**

### POSTLUDE

We are still not serving fellowship snacks or coffee, but you are welcome to visit together in the sanctuary after worship.

Call to worship from <http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/>, Opening prayer adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Prayer of Dedication, Spill the Beans, Issue 20, p. 92.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**BIBLE STUDY** is back! 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! This Tuesday, we'll be studying Jeremiah 29: 1,4-14.

### **BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER – ENDS TODAY!!!!**

Paper order forms are available at the church. You can also order online **by 3:00 today** (Sunday) at

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/flf2d7cf-7cae-45d9-b415-41551063ca4e>

IMPORTANT: If you order online, the website will say that the church will deliver to your address, but we need you to PICK UP your orders at the building.

Each delicious product costs \$14, and helps support people in need in our community.

If you have questions or need help ordering, contact Karen Wootton ([kaywoo10@yahoo.com](mailto:kaywoo10@yahoo.com)) or Office Manager Brandi Pletcher ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)).

**The products will be delivered TO THE CHURCH on this Wednesday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, and you should plan to pick yours up that day between 4:30 and 6:30PM..**

### **WIDER CHURCH GATHERING** - Online, All Week

You are ALL invited to the virtual events of the Annual Gathering of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ during this coming week. This is a great opportunity for you to connect with the wider church. I've taken part in Conference gatherings like this since I was in high school. They always help me to remember that we are not alone in our mission and ministry, and that others are facing many of the same challenges we are (and sometimes they've had creative solutions we didn't think of yet). They also show an image of God and give me a smile.

You could attend any or all of the following events:

Tuesday,	Nov 16, 7PM Opening Worship, with Conference Minister, with The Rev. Molly Carlson preaching
Wednesday,	No. 17, 7PM, Conference Minister and Council President Reports
Thursday,	Nov. 18, 7PM, Financial Panel Discussion

- Friday, Nov. 19, 1PM Business Session !  
4:30PM, keynote address from United Church of Christ General Minister and President, The Rev. John Dorhauer  
7PM, Fellowship "Front Porch" with IL Conference  
Moderator David Holston
- Saturday, Nov 20, 9:30AM, Business Session II  
Noon, Closing Worship with area pastor, The Rev. Jesse Knox III preaching

You do not need to register in advance or pay anything to attend any of these events. Just visit <http://ilucc.org/annual-celebration/>

I'll be attending many of these events and hope you will join in one or two yourself. (Need a recommendation? Let me know.)

- Pastor Hope

### **ADVENT IS COMING**

This year, we're looking forward to Advent and Christmas time in the church feeling much closer to "normal." Many details are still coming together, but here are some things we know now:

- We will sponsor a family through the Richmond-Spring Grove Food Pantry. We expect to have their wish list by the end of this month and have a few weeks to shop and wrap.
  - We will hold an Advent party, one of Pastor Hope's favorite events of the year. We're still deciding whether that will be in-person or on Zoom this year and what the exact date will be, so stay tuned!
  - We will need people, families, couples, friends to led the lighting of the Advent wreath candles in Sunday worship during Advent. Have you always wanted to do that? Or would it just be special to do it this year? Tell Pastor Hope you're interested.
  - We will have a Christmas pageant, which will be presented during Sunday morning worship time on December 12. Rehearsals are beginning today. Children of God of all ages are welcome to take part! Talk to Jean Valsa or Pastor Hope for more info.
  - The High School Choir will come offer their traditional holiday concert here, Wednesday, Dec 8, at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to attend.
  - Christmas Eve we expect to hold in-person, evening worship, which we will also expect to livestream. Hallelujah.
- May you engage with these opportunities to the fullest as we prepare to greet the Christ child among us.

## **UPDATES FROM CABINET**

The Church Cabinet met last Monday evening. We had discussion about continuing to work with the new camera in the sanctuary to get it cooperating with our keyboard and sound system, and discussed hiring someone to complete that set-up if our next few ideas don't resolve the issues. We heard updates about fellowship and youth education events, past and upcoming, as well as some updates about caring for the building. We ended the month with just over \$36,000 in our main bank account and about \$161,000 in our other non-endowment investment accounts.

## **FINANCIAL PLEDGES**

Many of you have received a letter and pledge card to tell us your expected giving to the church for 2022. Please return those pledge cards to the church as soon as you are able. This is also a great time of year to consider making a 'bonus' gift of gratitude and support to the church if you find yourself in a position to do so. Our continued thanks extends to all of you for all the ways you support the financial life of the church.

## **BIBLE BACKGROUND**

Last week, we started the prophet Jeremiah's story in about the year 627 BCE. God called him "to Judah and to the nations... to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." Now it's close to the year 600. The power of the Babylonian empire has gotten greater and, though they don't exactly know it yet, the small nation of Judah is only a few years from suffering its first heart-crushing exile experience (which happened in 597 BCE). Jeremiah has given his warnings through a couple kings now. What does he warn them? Not to trust in their own political or military efforts. (He actually says they should submit to being an occupied nation rather than trying to rebel or fight off the Babylonians. Of course, they don't like that proposal.)

## **PRAYERS for the Week of November 14, 2021**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, Please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope ([pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org)) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)). THANKS!  
*We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

As we note Veteran's Day this past week, we give thanks for all veterans and those who have served on our behalf, and we pray for a day when peace will come and those sacrifices will no longer be needed.

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Rob Rummel

Deann Workmon

Bill Haase's daughter, Barb Haase

Marti Swanson's long-time friend, Judy Coomes Wenzel

Sheryl Vezina

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family

Julie Leighninger

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),

Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi



## We Praise You, O God

420

*Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.*

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;  
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;  
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,  
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.  
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

*Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.*

Tune: KREMSEK 12.11.12.11.  
 Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenklanck, 1626

## Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise

Fred Pratt Green, 1982

Unison

1 Now let us all, in hymns of praise, bear wit - ness with one voice  
 2 What chang-es, chal-leng - es, and tests the church of Christ sur - vives!  
 3 Of all our la - bors, who can say what har - vest there shall be,

to God's re-deem-ing work in Christ, and bid the world re - joice.  
 How rich the rec - ords left to us of ded - i - cat - ed lives!  
 when time, that lim - its and dis-torts, be - comes e - ter - ni - ty?

To - day we call to mind the things that time can - not e - rode:  
 Still must the church pro - claim to all that now, and ev - er - more,  
 Then shall our hymns, re - hearsed be - low, be per - fect praise a - bove,

what God, Cre - a - tor of the world, is do - ing for our good.  
 the house of God is o - pen house, and Christ the O - pen Door.  
 as, face to face, we ful - ly know what this means: God is love!

*This setting of Fred Pratt Green's 1982 text appears in the composer's collection of thirty-five hymns, The Roy Hopp Hymnary (1990). Hopp holds master's degrees in both choral conducting and composition, and has served as a director of music in Michigan.*

Tune: OPEN DOOR C.M.D.  
 Roy Hopp, 1990  
 Alternate tune: ELLACOMBE

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