

One: In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfillment,

All: God will be.

One: Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,

**All: God was,
God is,
God will be.**

One: Let us pray:

In you, gracious God, the widowed find a partner,
the orphaned find a parent, the fearful find a friend.

All: God was, God is, God will be.

One: In you, the wounded find a healer,
the penitent a pardoner, the burdened find a counselor.

All: God was, God is, God will be.

One: In you, the miserly find a beggar,
the despondent find a laughter-maker, the legalists find a rule-breaker.

All: God was, God is, God will be.

One: In you, Jesus Christ, we meet our Maker,
and our match.

And if some need to say 'Help me,'
and if some need to say, 'Save me,'
and if some need to say, 'Hold me,'
and if some need to say, 'Forgive me,'
then let these be said now, in confidence, by us.

Quiet pause

O Christ, in whose heart is both welcome and warning,
say to us, do to us, reveal within us, the things that will make us whole.
And we will wait;
and we will praise you.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

Verse 1: **Come, O thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
As the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!**

Verse 2: **All the blessings of the field,
All the stores the gardens yield;
All the fruits in full supply
ripened 'neath the summer sky;
All that spring with bounteous hand,
scatters o'er the smiling land;
all that liberal autumn pours
from its rich o'er flowering stores.**

Verse 3: **These to you, our God, we owe
Source from whom all blessings flow;
And for these our songs we raise,
Grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come
Raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.**

#422, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: St. George's Windsor, George J Elvey c. 1858

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to Luke 5:4-10 (New Living Translation)

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

WORD FOR ALL AGES – With God's blessing and commissioning, Isaiah was able to take on a new mission for God? Who do you think of today who are doing work for God? How can you do 'something beautiful for God' (as the Bryan Sirchio song goes) this week?

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, be sure to say thank you to some people who are doing good, maybe even holy, work in your life this week.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

MESSAGE Promises, Promises: A Promise through the Coals

HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Verse 1:

**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!**

Verse 2:

**Holy, holy, holy, all the 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 human kind your glory may not see
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy
Perfect in power, in love, and purity!**

Verse 4:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

As we pray for our world, whenever Pastor Hope says, "Lord, hear us," please respond with "Lord, graciously hear us."

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 "We Give You but Your Own"

We give You but Your own, whatever the gift may be:

All that we have is Yours alone, we give it gratefully. Amen.

#351, The Hymnal, United Church of Christ; Lyrics, William Walsham How, 1864; Tune: Mason & Webb's Cantica Laudis 1850

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... O Lord, you have provided for all our needs. We offer our gift of money today, knowing that it is only a small part of what we can offer – our whole being, our energy, our passion, our service to your kingdom. Accept these offerings, and use them for your purposes in the world. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Lord, Make Me More Holy"

Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy.

Lord, make me more holy until we meet again.

Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

#75, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Lord, Make Me more Holy, African-American Spiritual

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship, and Opening Prayer, and Pastoral Prayer, adapted from "Morning Liturgy A," in A Wee Worship Book, 4th Incarnation from Wild Goose Worship Group; Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the Beans, Issue 20, p. 36;

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NEW NEWS

WIDER MISSIONS MINISTRY meets this Tuesday, the 17th, at 3PM, in the church fellowship hall.

MANY FUNDRAISING POSSIBILITIES

That's My Pan Fundraiser To shop the unique, personalized household products of this fundraiser, visit our church's unique shopping website at <https://www.thatsmypan.biz/communitychurchucc> All local orders will be shipped to the church in early December for you to pick up; your friends and family further away can place their orders and have them shipped directly to them from the website. If you don't want to order online, contact Kim May and she'll place your order (kimbuh74@gmail.com or 262-903-1419).

Shipping is \$2.75 per item. Place your order by Dec 1. Other questions? Kim May has your answers!

Gift Card Sales

We are still selling gift cards to benefit the general fund of the church. Even though you might not be getting out to as many places these days, you're probably still buying groceries – we sell gift cards for many of those stores! Amazon, Lands' End, Kohl's, and many other retailers you might order from online are also available. You also might need some gifts that are easy to mail if you're not getting together with family in-person as much these holidays – hundreds of vendors that make great gifts are available as well. Take a few minutes to see the whole big list of vendors here <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse> Contact Penny Kraft to place your order (mriapk@gmail.com or 815-236-6172).

Your Annual Pledge Statements You've either received or will soon receive a letter asking you to consider what you expect to be able to give to the church in the next year. The financial support of our friends and members keeps our mission in this place possible. Please prayerfully consider what your giving next year might be and return your pledge card this month.

Trivia Night, Thanksgiving Offering, Special Gifts

Want to help us make up the deficit from what we would have made on Trivia Night? Feel thankful that you've made it through this year with the blessings that you have? Simply feel moved to give a special gift to the church in this final quarter of the year? Any reason is a good reason to give!

LOOKING AHEAD TOWARD ADVENT

I know we're all weary from this long time of living through the coronavirus, and the thought of the coming holidays without the familiar comforts is one more wearying sadness. We can tell from the numbers though, across the region and within the households of our congregation, that right now is not the time to start offering new, in-person gatherings. It does not look likely that it will be wise to gather at any point during Advent, but we will watch the conditions see what might be possible.

As you long to re-gather, I do remind you that even if we are to allow small groups of people into the sanctuary during December, it won't be like normal worship. We can't sing together; we can't hug each other; we can't spend more than a short period of time together. Considering all that (and more), I do encourage you to make the best of what we can offer and experience. If you haven't visited Facebook worship in a while, give it a fresh try in Advent. Help us help you get the worship supplies that we'll be handing out as the season starts, and then engage with them at home. Keep an eye out for other opportunities, and then, if at all possible, take them. It won't be a December that includes all our favorite holiday rituals, no matter what; but it can still be a season to draw us closer to Christ, and maybe even to each other. I'll share more as we get closer to Advent. Hang in there. – Pastor Hope

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SURVEY Last week, you received an email with a link to a survey about our church life. Thanks to the many of you who have already completed it so far. If you'd rather have a paper copy to complete, just call the church office (815-678-6521) and we'll get a copy to you. The survey is designed to help Pastor Hope understand what is helpful that the church is currently offering, what's not so helpful, and what you wish we were doing instead. It will take you about ten minutes to complete. THANKS!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 2:00, Tuesday afternoon on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join in this weekly discussion of the Bible text for the coming Sunday; we just read the Bible together and stop and explore the story – no advanced homework necessary! Contact Pastor Hope for the meeting link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY 10:30-11:00 each Saturday morning. The kids have a good time seeing each other and hearing some of the great Bible stories. If you have a school-aged child in your household, we'd love to have you attend.

Our Part in the Story: God Calls Isaiah Isaiah 6:1-8 www.theartoffaith.net

- ❖ King Uzziah had been on the throne for over fifty years, and was a powerful ruler. How do you think Uzziah's death affected Isaiah and the Israelites?
- ❖ What was Isaiah's response to his vision of the Lord? How would you have responded in his place?
- ❖ What words of confession do you have for your sins?
- ❖ To what is God calling you? How will you respond?

Daily Readings These readings span the story between this Sunday's text and next Sunday's.

Monday: Isaiah's Vision Isaiah 6:9-13

- ❖ What do you think about this first message that God gave to Isaiah?

Tuesday: Isaiah's Message for Ahaz Isaiah 7:1-9

- ❖ In what situation are you finding it necessary to stand firm in faith?

Wednesday: Isaiah Gives the Sign of Immanuel Isaiah 7:10-17

- ❖ These words are often read as prophesy of the coming of Jesus. How do you read them differently in the context of Isaiah's call to speak God's word to the king?

Thursday: Isaiah Gives Ahaz a Sign Isaiah 7:18-25

- ❖ What do these signs tell you about the coming of Immanuel?

Friday: Isaiah's Son Is a Sign Isaiah 8:1-8

- ❖ The birth of Isaiah's son is seen as a sign of darker things to come. What does this reading say to you about the Lord's relationship with Israel?

Saturday: Isaiah's Son Is a Sign Isaiah 8:9-15

- ❖ What security do you find in the Lord's word?

PRAYERS FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Names are added to our prayer list when shared with Pastor Hope or by contacting the church office (office@richmonducc.org). We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer. If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org).

JOYS: Birthdays: Nicki Carter (11/12)

Thanks so much to the many of you who offered kind words and gifts in honor of my ordination anniversary at the end of October. It continues to be my privilege to share in ministry with you all.
– Pastor Hope

CONCERNS

Molozaiy family friends, the Newells

For our nation and our ongoing democratic process

The many people in our immediate community affected by COVID-19

Deann Workmon

Lee and Linda Swenson and family

Ruthann Walters, recovering from fall

Carol Sligting's great-grandson, Aiden

Carol Sligting's son-in-law, Nick, ill with COVID-19

The many affected by the most recent hurricanes and storms, in our nation and throughout the Caribbean

Ongoing Prayers:

Sarah Richardson, Rob and Carol's daughter-in-law, pregnant with twins

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

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers, staff, and administrators; school children and their parents, including college students

Those whose household relationships are strained

Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic

Those who wait in self-quarantine after exposure to COVID-19

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:

Ruthann Walters (Indiana)

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico)

Sharon Mensing (Sterling)

June Whitney (at home)