

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Christ the King Sunday

November 21, 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

“Jesus Shall Reign”

#300, vv. 1, 4, & 5
Charles Kemp

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Karch

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Give God great, glorious praise, everybody!

All: We will remember and rejoice at what God has done!

One: Come and see what God has done:

God turned the sea into dry land for God's people to escape.

All: We will remember and rejoice at what God has done!

One: Praise God now like God's people praised then.

Praise the one who is mighty forever, who keeps watch on the nations, who keeps the rebellious in check.

All: We will remember and rejoice at what God has done!

One: Let us pray:

In our worship, and in our daily lives, O God,
you meet us and hold us.

You, the king of all the universe,
make your home among us.

God, so often we fail to recognize you,
yet you stick with us.

And so we thank you for your presence—

when we have known it and when we have not,

when we have recognized you and when we did not.
Give us the wisdom and the expectancy
to see you showing up in our lives -
in our homes, our schools, our work,
the grocery store, the coffee shop.
Keep on showing up, O God, until we get it—
that you are the God who is with us and who goes before us,
the God who meets us in worship and in our daily lives.
We worship and adore you, God with us now.
Amen.

HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

#425

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to John 18:33-36

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

Psalm 66:1-2, 8-12

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

 sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise....

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;

 we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

MESSAGE God Bless 'em (But Leave Me Out of It)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God" #419

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 HEAM, inspired by Ps 66; Opening prayer Spill the Beans, Issue 24, p. 96; 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 32:1-3a, 6-15 and 33:14-18.

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 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 have a Christmas pageant, which will be presented during Sunday morning worship time on December 12. Rehearsals have begun. 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.

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.

POINSETTIA ORDERS: If you'd like to sponsor a poinsettia to brighten up the sanctuary and then take home to enjoy, please complete your order form and return it with your \$15 payment by NEXT Sunday, November 28. Checks can be made to The Community Church of Richmond, but please specify "poinsettias" in the memo line. Please include your payment when you order. You can leave your order forms and payment in the offering plate in the sanctuary, or stop by the church during the week and leave them in the mailbox outside Brandi's office.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

For our third week with Jeremiah, we move into the mess of the exile itself. In 597, the king of Judah had tried to rebel against the occupying Babylonian army. (Remember that part of Jeremiah's message to the king had been that God wanted them to submit to the oppression of the Babylonians instead of trying to assert their own power.) The rebellion failed and as punishment, the Babylonians took most of the leaders of Judah

hundreds of miles away in Babylon. They took the king, his officials, the greatest craftsmen of the country, the wealthy.

In today's reading it's a little while (probably a couple years) after the exile began, and it seems that the people in Babylon are seeking Jeremiah's input on how they are supposed to behave and conduct themselves during their time of exile.

As we read Jeremiah, it's worth remembering that part of what made his task harder was that he was just one of many voices claiming to speak for God; other prophets gave messages that would have been more popular and easier for the people to listen to than what Jeremiah kept saying, like saying the exile will be behind them all in 2 short years. Chapter 28, just before today's reading, gives a good story of a showdown between one such prophet and Jeremiah, and such prophets who 'lead people to believe lies' are argued with again in the later verses of chapter 29.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY: Wider Missions has accepted a family of 5 for our Christmas Family from the Richmond-Spring Grove Community Food Pantry. This family has 4 children: Boy, age 10, who is autistic; Girl, age 9; Girl, age 6, who's also autistic, and a Boy, age 2, with a single mom. You can sign up for Community Church of Richmond Christmas Family Gifts at <https://signup.com/go/BysogbR>

Please wrap your gift and tag it with the following information. Gift #, Family Y, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age. No bows please, they just fall off. If you purchase a gift card, please put it in an envelope labeled with this information: Gift #, Family Y, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age. Place it in the Box marked Mom. All gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 12th.

We're using SignUp.com to organize. Here's how it works:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp : <https://signup.com/go/BysogbR>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! You will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.



**Illinois Conference
2021 Medical Debt
Relief Campaign**

We have an exciting challenge that we can only possibly achieve if we work together. After all, we are **STRONGER TOGETHER**.

We have a challenge set to relieve **\$10M of medical debt** that is burdening our neighbors right here in Illinois. If we can raise **\$100,000** by the end of November, we have the opportunity to purchase debt through RIP Medical Debt in partnership with the national setting of the UCC. This amount of money **can relieve \$10,000,000 of debt** off the backs of our neighbors most in need. I know no better way to express our faith in practice!

I invite you each to give what you can – but better yet, motivate your congregation to give! If your congregation could raise \$10,000 – that would be \$1M of debt! If your missions committee could allocate \$1,000 – that would be \$100,000! If your Sunday School class could scrape together \$100 – that would be \$10,000 that another family will be freed from.

The United Church of Christ is committed to creating a **just world for all** – and how better to put this concept into practice than to lift the burden of medical debt, especially during this season of pandemic.

A great way to **give THANKS**. A great way to **celebrate the HOLIDAYS**. A great way to **live out our FAITH**.

Blessings,
Rev. Molly Carlson
Conference Minister

P.S. Consider making a donation in the name of that family member that is hard to buy for – what a great gift!



**SCAN ME TO
LEARN
MORE!**



PRAYERS for the Week of November 21, 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.

Our Sympathy extends to the family of Fred Krause, family friend of Pastor Hope, who died this week.

Our Sympathies to the Obara family for the passing of Ina's father, Ibrahim "Didi" Hadad.

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

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

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Tune: ARHYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
 Welsh traditional melody
 Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
 Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
 For another harmonization, see 82

THANKSGIVING

419

Nun danket alle Gott
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20-24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.
With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
Johann Crüger, 1647
Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840