

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on Reign of Christ Sunday
November 22, 2020 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/>

As you come to worship, we encourage you to light the candle we shared with you in October – or another candle in your home – and to have on-hand the prayer square we handed out last week.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING SONG

“Enough”

Penny Kraft & Kim May

CHORUS: **All of You is more than enough for all of me
For ev'ry thirst and ev'ry need
You satisfy me with Your love
And all I have in You is more than enough**

VERSE 1: **You're my supply my breath of life
Still more awesome than I know
You're my reward worth living for
Still more awesome than I know**

REPEAT CHORUS

VERSE 2: **You're my sacrifice of greatest price
Still more awesome than I know
You're my coming King You are ev'rything
Still more awesome than I know**

REPEAT CHORUS

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WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP

George Zimmermann

ONE: Among the poor, among the proud,
TWO: among the persecuted, among the privileged,
ALL: Christ is coming to make all things new.

ONE: In the private house, in the marketplace,
TWO: in the wedding feast, in the courtroom,
ALL: Christ is coming to make all things new.

ONE: With a gentle touch, with an angry touch,
TWO: with a clear conscience, with burning love,
ALL: Christ is coming to make all things new.

ONE: That the kingdom might come,
TWO: that the world might believe,
ONE: that the powerful might stumble,
TWO: that the humble might be raised,
ALL: Christ is coming to make all things new.

ONE: Within us,
TWO: without us,
ONE: among us,
TWO: before us,
ONE: in this place,
TWO: in every place,
ONE: for this time,
TWO: for all time,
ALL: Christ is coming to make all things new.

ONE: Let us pray: Come, O Christ.
Come to reign in our hearts and our lives,
in our homes and in our world.
Let this be the year when we seek your will above our own,
when your prayer that we 'all may be one' is made real among us.
Let our hearts be turned to you at last,
so our lives bow in humble thanks that you, and you alone, rule above us.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Now Thank We All our God" #419

Verse 1: **Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms,
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

Song continues on next page

Verse 2: **O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

Verse 3: **All praise and thanks to God
our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too,
our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

#419, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Martin Rinkart, 1647; Tune: Johann Cruger, 1647

WORD FOR ALL AGES – How does that hymn make you feel? Look again at the words – how do you think the author of the lyrics felt when he wrote it? The note in our hymnals tells us that he (Martin Rinkart) was a German Lutheran pastor and musician who, for much of his life, “ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the 30 Years’ War.’ St. Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians from jail and in it he said, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” This Thanksgiving week, remember not to wait until you feel happy and thankful to express your gratitude: praise God anyway.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

– from the Iona Community

Leader: Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place,
and called its people your children;
because, when things seemed at their worst,
you came in Christ to bring out the best in us;
so, gracious God, we gladly say:

**All: Goodness is stronger than evil,
love is stronger than hate,
light is stronger than darkness,
truth is stronger than lies.**

Leader: Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith;
because anger, tension, bitterness, and envy distort our vision;
because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion;
because we do not always get it right;
we want to believe:

**All: Goodness is stronger than evil,
love is stronger than hate,
light is stronger than darkness,
truth is stronger than lies.**

Leader: Because you have promised to hear us and are able to change us,
and are willing to make our hearts your home,
we ask you to confront, control, forgive, and encourage us,
as you know best.

(pause)

Then let us cherish in our hearts that which we proclaim with our lips:

**All: Goodness is stronger than evil,
love is stronger than hate,
light is stronger than darkness,
truth is stronger than lies.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28 (Common English Bible)

In the fourth year of Judah's King Jehoiakim, Josiah's son, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Take a scroll and write in it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah, and all the nations from the time of Josiah until today. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I intend to bring upon them, they will turn from their evil ways, and I will forgive their wrongdoing and sins. So Jeremiah sent for Baruch, Neriah's son. As Jeremiah dictated all the words that the Lord had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them in the scroll. Then Jeremiah told Baruch, "I'm confined here and can't go to the Lord's temple. So you go to the temple on the next day of fasting, and read the Lord's words from the scroll that I have dictated to you. Read them so that all the people in the temple can hear them, as well as all the Judeans who have come from their towns. If they turn from their evil ways, perhaps the Lord will hear their prayers. The Lord has threatened them with fierce anger." Baruch, Neriah's son, did everything the prophet Jeremiah instructed him: he read all the Lord's words from the scroll in the temple.

[From there, a servant of the royal house heard what Baruch was reading, and went and told basically the king's cabinet. they brought Baruch to them and had him read the scroll. Then one of the, Jehudi, went and told the king about it.]

... The king sent Jehudi to take the scroll, and he retrieved it from the room of Elishama the scribe. Then Jehudi read it to the king and all his royal officials who were standing next to the king. Now it was the ninth month, and the king was staying in the winterized part of the palace with the firepot burning near him. And whenever Jehudi read three or four columns of the scroll, the king would cut them off with a scribe's knife and throw them into the firepot until the whole scroll was burned up.

... The Lord's word came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll containing the words written by Baruch at Jeremiah's dictation: Get another scroll and write in it all the words that were in the first scroll that Judah's King Jehoiakim burned.

31:31-34

... The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I

was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

MESSAGE Promises, Promises: The Promise of a Persistent God

HYMN "Jesus Shall Reign" #300

Verse 1:

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
'til moons shall wax and wane no more.**

Verse 2:

**Through Christ shall endless prayer be made,
borne by the Spirit's ceaseless aid;
Like sweet perfume new hymns shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.**

Verse 3:

**People and realms of every tongue
dwell on God's love with sweetest song.
And infant voices shall proclaim
their earliest prayers in Jesus' name.**

Verse 4:

**Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed.**

Verse 5:

**Let every creature rise and bring
tributes of praise for all to sing;
Angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

#300, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Duke Street, Attrib. John Hatton, 1793, Lyrics, Isaac Watts, 1719

PASTORAL PRAYER

When Pastor Hope indicates, please join in with **“Your kingdom come, Your will be done.”**

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 Howe, 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; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

ADVENT SUPPLY PICK-UP NEXT Saturday, Nov. 28, from 3:30 to 5:00PM, at the sanctuary doors. We have Advent worship supplies for every household of the church, regardless of your age, how many live in your house, or whether or not you like Advent! We have a small Advent “wreath” for every household, available with either flame candles (votive-size) OR electric (batter-powered) candles. **If you have a preference between flame or electric for your candles, call or message Pastor Hope!** (We have plenty of both kinds of candles.)

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FAMILY As is our tradition, we’ll work with the Richmond/Spring Grove Food Pantry to help a family in the community have a merry Christmas as we supply some gifts for “Family S.” Wider Mission Ministry is still finalizing details, but here’s what we know so far:

- Our family has 4 kids, ages 9 years to 10 months.
- All gifts need to be brought to church by Sunday, Dec 13. We’ll be at the building until 1:00PM that day for drop-offs. You can also drop off before that by arranging a time with Pastor Hope or Brandi Pletcher.
- All gifts need to be wrapped and labelled to indicate what family member they’re for. (Such as, “Family S, Boy, age 9”. More details about this will follow.)
- If you helped us buy gifts last year, a member of Wider Mission will be calling you soon to see if you can help out again this year. If you want to help and don’t get called, contact Karen Wootton directly at 815-271-0056 or kaywoo10@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE Our annual, super-fun-for-all-ages Advent party will be held on Zoom on Saturday, December 19. from 4-5PM. We’ll play a game or two, sing a carol or two, and generally have a great time together. Everyone should bring at least one Christmas JOKE to share! More details later.

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THAT’S MY PAN FUNDRAISER Check out our church’s own website for this fundraiser at <https://www.thatsmypan.biz/communitychurchucc>

There you can look at the LARGE assortment of baking pans, cookie tins, mugs, and SO MUCH MORE that can be personalized in SO MANY ways, and place your order. If you don’t want to order online, you can contact Kim May who will take your order. (She’s at kimbuh74@gmail.com or 262-903-1419.) You can also support this fundraiser by SHARING this website to friends and family; you can copy it and share in an email.

Orders should be placed by December 1.

Some of you have asked if you can simply make a bonus donation to the church if you aren’t inspired to order any pans at this time. The answer is OF COURSE! We always welcome any extra donation you’re able to share with us. Thank you.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY meets at 2:00 this 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 - NO Sunday School next Saturday. We’ll see you back on Dec 5!

PRAYERS FOR NOVEMBER 22, 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 our office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org).
THANKS!

JOYS: Birthdays: Blair Rummel (11/23)

CONCERNS

Pastor Hope's brother, Jacob

Char Kania

Lee and Linda Swenson and family

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

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 other nations

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)

Our Part in the Story: Devotions on Sunday's Text

Daily Readings

These readings span the story between this Sunday's text and next Sunday's. Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

Our Part in the Story: Devotions on Sunday's Text

God's Promises New Covenant Jeremiah 36: 1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34

- ❖ How do you think Jeremiah felt, having to share so much difficult news?
- ❖ Can you compare the self-indulgent king to anyone in today's culture? Who avoids and hides condemning words?
- ❖ What was different about God's new covenant? What is the message of hope in chapter 31?
- ❖ What has God written on your heart?

Daily Readings

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Monday: Jeremiah Buys a Field Jeremiah 32:1-8

- ❖ What is your indication that a sign is truly from the Lord?

Tuesday: Jeremiah Prays for Understanding Jeremiah 32:16-25

- ❖ What do you do to follow God's will when you don't understand?

Wednesday: God's Assurance of the People's Return Jeremiah 32:26-44

- ❖ What assurance would you like to hear from God right now?

Thursday: Healing after Punishment Jeremiah 33:1-13

- ❖ Why do you think the Lord needed to provide an introduction in vs. 1-2?

Friday: The Righteous Branch and Covenant with David Jeremiah 33:14-26

- ❖ What are the implications of the Lord's words in this reading?

Saturday: Jeremiah is Imprisoned Jeremiah 37:11-21

- ❖ How far would you be willing to go to follow your calling?
Would you go to prison for your faith?