

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 & OPENING PRAYER

Jean Valsa

One: From the desert wilderness to the bustling city,
from the dryness of drought to the depths of the flood,
from complete silence to overwhelming noise:
in each and every place is God;
in each and every place we are seeking;
in each and every place we worship.

One: Let us pray:

Providing God, you are over-generous in all that you supply for us.
Yet we are slow to acknowledge you as the source of our supply,
and we are quick to take it all for granted.

All: Do not refuse us your mercy.

One: God of life, do not darken your light to us,
do not limit your joy in us,
do not shut your door to us,

All: Do not refuse us your mercy.

One: O God of life, eternity cannot hold you, nor can our little words
catch the magnificence of your kindness.

Yet in the space of our small hearts and in silence, you can come close and repair us.

All: Do not refuse us your mercy.

One: O God of life, grant us your forgiveness: for our careless thoughts,
for our thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech,
and for the words with which we wounded.

All: Do not refuse us your mercy.

One: O God of life, grant us your forgiveness: for our false desires,
for our hateful actions, for our wastefulness, and for all we left unattended.

All: Do not refuse us your mercy.

One: O loving Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning, scatter the sin from our
souls as the mist from the hills; begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who
we are.

All: Do not refuse us your mercy.

One: In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, today and evermore. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Verse 1: **A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.**

Verse 2: **Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
but there is one who takes our side, the one of God’s own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save, victorious o’er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.**

song continues on next page

Verse 3: **And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;
their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure:
one little word shall fell them.**

Verse 4: **That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.**

#439, The New Century Hymnal; Tune: Ein' Feste Burg, Martin Luther c. 1529

WORD FOR ALL AGES – Today we're going to think about some of our favorite things. What are some of your favorites? Favorite foods? Favorite places? Favorite activities? If you're joining us for worship, be ready to chime in in the comments with some of those answers. If you're not in worship this week, take time to think of some of your favorites, and say a simple 'thank you' to God for those goodnesses in your life.

SCRIPTURE READINGS The Gospel according to Luke 4:24-30

And Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

I Kings 17:1-16 (NRSV)

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." The word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to the word of the Lord; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of

sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

MESSAGE Promises, Promises: God’s Promise is in The Other

HYMN “Great is Your Faithfulness”

Verse 1:

**Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.**

Refrain:

**Great is your faithfulness! Great is your Faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me!**

Verse 2:

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3:

**Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.**

Repeat Refrain

#423 New Century Hymnal; Words, Thomas O Chisholm, 1923; Tune, Faithfulness, 1923

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 "We Give You but Your Own"

**We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be:
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. 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, Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the Beans, Issue 20, pp. 68 and 36; Opening Prayer, adapted from "Morning Liturgy D," in A Wee Worship Book, 4th Incarnation from Wild Goose Worship Group; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

CABINET MEETING meets tomorrow, the 9th, at 6:30 PM on Zoom. If you have business the Cabinet should discuss, contact Robert Richardson or Pastor Hope.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Saturday, Nov 21, 9:30-12:30. This meeting will include committee reports, financial updates, and conclude with the Installation service for our newly elected Conference Minister. Anyone is welcome to attend this Zoom event. If you're interested, let Pastor Hope know and she'll get you connected.

THAT'S MY PAN! FUNDRAISER is going on now! You should have received a link by email yesterday connecting you to this fundraiser; if not, check your 'spam' folder. Just in time for holiday gift-buying, we'll be working with "That's My Pan," sellers of personalized household products out of Chippewa Falls, WI. Personalized baking pan lids, insulated mugs, cutting boards, as well as reusable straw sets, a bacon press, and much more. Visit our church's customized ordering website at <https://www.thatsmypan.biz/communitychurchucc> to browse. You can also order there or contact Kim May directly at kimbuh74@gmail.com or 262-903-1419 to place your order with her. All local orders will be shipped to the church by early Dec. Contact Kim with any other questions!

VISITING HOURS: None this week.

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, which might sound long, but is about as long as many of you would spend in the car to make one trip to church; since you're not using your time that way right now, take those minutes and complete the survey. THANKS!

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 While we'd rather be together, we're excited to continue holding weekly Sunday school on Zoom from 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. And you're welcome, as always, to invite a friend to Sunday school.

PRAYERS FOR NOVEMBER 8, 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: Lydia Blanton (11/10)

CONCERNS

For our nation and our ongoing democratic process
The many people in our immediate community affected by COVID-19
Deann Workmon
The Swenson family
Ruthann Walters, recovering from fall
Carol Slighting's great-grandson, Aiden, re-hospitalized
Carol Slighting'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
Katy Cartier, who has moved to FL

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

God's Care for the Widow

1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

- ❖ Why do you think God let the stream dry up and the widow's son die?
- ❖ Why did Elijah ask the woman to bake bread for him before feeding herself and her son?
- ❖ What does Elijah's extreme emotion over the death of the widow's son say to you about his character?

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.

Monday: Elijah's Message to Ahab

1 Kings 18:1-19

- ❖ Do you know anyone who troubles the people by telling them uncomfortable truths?

Tuesday: Elijah's Triumph Over the Priests of Baal 1 Kings 18:20-40

- ❖ Why do you think Elijah felt the need to show off the Lord's power?

Wednesday: Elijah Meets God at Horeb

1 Kings 19:11-18

- ❖ How do you describe the "sound of sheer silence"?

Thursday: Elijah Ascends to Heaven

2 Kings 2:1-12

- ❖ How do you say goodbye to someone very important to you?

Friday: Elisha Succeeds Elijah

2 Kings 2:13-18

- ❖ What does it look like when the Spirit of the Lord is upon someone?

Saturday: Elijah Performs Miracles

2 Kings 2:19-25

- ❖ Do you think the Lord condoned Elisha's punishment of the boys who mocked him? How do you manage people who make things difficult for you?