

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on
the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 12, 2023 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 are visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaui

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG “All Creation”

Verse 1: **We come to You with a heart of thanks, for Your love,
to be a living sacrifice, brought with love.
We come to You with a heart of thanks, for Your love;
an offering of all we are, brought with love.**

Chorus: **All creation, looks to You.
All provision, comes from You.
In ev'ry sunrise, hope shines through.
For Your mercy, we thank You.**

Verse 2: **We come to You with a song of praise, for Your love,
the music of our soul's delight, brought with love.
We come to You with a song of praise, for Your love.
Sounds of joy and gratefulness, brought with love.**

Chorus

TAG: **we thank You
we thank You**

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Elise Livingston

One: May God be among us throughout this day.

All: Amen.

One: May Christ be beside us throughout this day.

All: Amen!

One: May the Spirit be within us throughout this day.

All: Amen!

One: May we, as God's people, be at one with the saints in heaven, and live in harmony with the Blessed Three to whom be praise and glory forever.

All: Amen!

One: Let us pray.

Each thing we have received:

All: From God it came.

One: Each thing we enjoy:

All: From God it comes.

One: Each thing we pray for:

All: From God it will be given.

One: God of life, you are the source of all goodness and the satisfaction of all our desires.

Our understanding of you is small;

All: increase it.

One: Our desire to do your will is weak;

All: enliven it.

One: The seed you have planted has yet to bear fruit;

All: ripen it.

One: But first, create in us clean hearts as, in your sight, we unburden ourselves of guilt, of anger, of fear, of pride, of hardness of heart, of weakness of intention.

Quiet pause

One: Jesus, Son of Mary,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, Savior of the World,

All: make peace within us.

One: Christ, King of Glory,

All: Be with us and for us wherever life takes us.

One: In the common path of our calling, whether it be easy or uneasy to tread, whether it be bright or dark to follow, let your perfect guidance protect us.

All: Be a shield against all that might deceive us.

Be a healer for all that might harm us.

Be a witness of all that might trouble us.

Be a friend to all who are dear to us,

this day and until we meet in glory. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

“Day by Day”

Chancel Choir

THE CHANCEL STEPS

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.

SONG RESPONSE “Thank God”

**Thank God, thank God,
thanks in the morning, thanks in the noontime;
Thank God, thank God,
thanks when the sun goes down.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Mark 1:40-44

A man with a skin disease came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I am willing. Be made clean!” Immediately the skin disease left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded as a testimony to them.”

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, “If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease.” So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, “Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.”

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease.” When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends

word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.”

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel...”

MESSAGE The Tedious, Miraculous Healing of God

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

TIME OF PRAYER “Leaning In” a sung prayer of intention
Christopher Grundy, 2018, Used with Permission

1. We pray for the lonely ones,
 knowing that some of us are lonely
 And we pray for the heartbroken ones,
 knowing that some of us are heartbroken.
 **A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
 joining in your way of love in the world.**
2. We pray for the wounded ones,
 knowing that some of us are wounded
 And we pray for the regretful ones,
 knowing that some of us are regretful.
 **A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
 joining in your way of healing in the world.**

3. We pray for the starving ones,
knowing that some of us are starving
And we pray for the imprisoned ones,
knowing that some of us are imprisoned.
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of justice in the world.**

4. We pray for the dying ones
knowing that some of us are dying
And we pray for the newly born ones
knowing that some of us are arriving.
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world.**
Amen.

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.**

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Creator God, receive these tokens of our praise,
and re-create our hearts in love
that we may serve you gladly with all that we have. Amen.**

*HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

#76

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "When the Lord's in You"

**When the Lord's in you, and the Lord's in me,
there's a bridge between our spirits,
wherever we may be.
'Til we meet again
let us hold the Mystery of the Lord in you and me.**

(Bryan Sirchio Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI)

Call to worship and opening prayer, A Wee Worship Book, 5th Incarnation, Wild Goose Resource Group, p. 51. Dedication, Chalice Worship, #545.
.Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>November 19</u>
Liturgist	Elise Livingston	Rob Richardson
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	Karen Wootton	
Sunday School	Gail, Jean, Theresa (pageant practice)	Gail, Jean, Theresa (pageant practice)

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Cabinet meets tomorrow night, 7pm, in the lounge
- Wider Missions meeting, Tuesday, 1:30pm
- Blood Drive, Tuesday, 3:30 to 7:30pm here at church
- Choir practices this Wednesday at 7pm
- Butter Braid Delivery: Frozen Butter Braids will be delivered to the church on Friday; please pick them up between 5:00 and 6:00
- Bunco is also this Friday, with the dice rolling at 7pm.

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive at www.raiseright.com/brands . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled “GIFT CARDS” in the upper hallway.

Gift Card App

We can now also support this fundraiser through the RaiseRight app with your smartphone. Gift cards for many places are available digitally for you to purchase and then use right away at the store you’re shopping in or the restaurant you’re eating at! Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly. Penny Kraft, Ronnie Obara, and Kathy Speaker are all very familiar with using the app and can help you get started if you’re interested.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

Thanks to all who have turned in your estimated giving pledges for the coming year. If you haven't turned one in yet, we encourage you to do so. No matter how large or small you expect your giving to the church to be, your pledges help us plan for our life together. Thank you for your commitment to our congregation.

FOR CONNECTION

THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS OUT!

Be sure to pick one up at the front of the sanctuary – one color copy per household, please, but we'll have B&W copies available shortly if your house would like a second copy. Please check your name off of the list when you take yours.

DO YOU ENJOY FELLOWSHIP SNACKS AFTER WORSHIP?

If so, consider hosting one week. It is a very easy task, but an important one. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the lounge with dates open through the end of the year.

PASTORAL UPDATE

Pastor Hope will have surgery tomorrow. She plans to be out of the office for the coming week to recover at home. Next Sunday will be a lay-led service getting us in the spirit of thanksgiving. President Elise Livingston is available if you have questions or concerns.

NATIVITY SETS WANTED

We are going to participate in the Richmond Cocoa Walk on Saturday, December 9th from 10AM to 3PM, by offering a nativity scene tour inside the sanctuary in addition to warm drinks. Do you have an interesting nativity scene or two to share for this day? Special notes about your nativity scene - like why it is special to you, where you got it, how old it is, your name, etc., would be great additions. We'll set them up throughout the sanctuary, so we also need extra card tables and tv trays for the displays. Contact Elise with questions or for details. We need the written descriptions by December 3rd and the nativity scenes brought to church by December 7th. We have museum putty to secure fragile figures to the tables and we will be as careful as possible!

We'd also love to feature some of our musical talent during the cocoa walk - voice or instrumental, solo or group, and all levels of expertise are welcome! It will add so much beauty to the nativity scene display! Call or email Elise.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12, 2023

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Kathy Smietana (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!

We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

JOYS: Birthdays: Nicki Carter (11/12); Theresa Kaman (11/17). Charles Kemp is thankful for his many friends. Bill Vezina is thankful for a good recovery.

PRAYERS FOR:

DeAnn Workmon
David Runnfeldt
Mike & Donna Anderson
Betty Waspi's friend, Denise Sheets
Pastor Hope
People of Maine
Nicki Carter
Annabelle Ortiz
Melissa Jones
Charles Kemp
Bill Vezina
Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine

Ongoing Prayers:

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik
Rob Richardson's brother, Dale

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Ralph and Connie Runnfeldt.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Faith Community U.C.C. in Bensenville and their Pastor, the Rev. Greg Sabetta.

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Betty Waspi

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pening day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The ser - vice is

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in People's Mass Book, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.