

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on  
the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 19, 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

President Elise Livingston

*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 Rob Richardson

One: This place of worship has been prepared for us to come with songs of thanksgiving before our God. Bring your gifts to the altar and share your stories of blessings!

**All: God has provided so much—even this beautiful day—so let's raise our voices and celebrate!**

One: Let us pray: O God of steadfast love, we entered this space today to worship you in gladness.

**All: We come into your presence to sing your praises. You are our creator; we are your people.**

One: Be with us, O God, as we celebrate all of creation:

**All: Thanks for the sun, water, air and winds that nourish your earth which provides the bounty we enjoy. Bless us as we bless your name. Amen.**

HYMN "Softly and Tenderly" #449

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

ANTHEM "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" 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 Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God

except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

### Deuteronomy 8:7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

"Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

"He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them

and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

MESSAGE

Elise Livingston

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

#31

TIME OF PRAYER

Litany of Thanksgiving

One: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

**All: God’s love is everlasting.**

One: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

**All: Let us come to God with Thanksgiving.**

One: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardship shared from birth until our dying:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For children; their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and their startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn out values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger:

**All: Thank you, God.**

One: For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we received by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord:

**All: We praise you, God.**

One: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:

**All: We praise you, God.**

One: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him:

**All: We thank and praise you, Eternal God,  
For all your goodness to us.**

One: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

**All: God's love is everlasting. 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)

**With thanksgiving and joy,  
we have returned to you a portion  
of the blessings you have given to us.  
Bless us and our gifts for your purposes. Amen.**

\*HYMN

"Lift Up Your Hearts"

#38

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, Opening prayer, dedication, Worship Ways for November 20, 2016 by Henrietta Stith Andrews. Litany of Thanksgiving from the Wideness of God’s Mercy, J. Rowthorn. Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

	<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	<b><u>November 26</u></b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Rob Richardson	Nicki Carter
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Greeter/Usher</b>	Dick Strahs	
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	Penny Kraft	
<b>Sunday School</b>	Gail, Jean, Theresa (pageant practice)	Gail, Jean, Theresa (pageant practice)

**AT CHURCH THIS WEEK**

- Choir practices this Wednesday 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](http://www.raiseright.com/brands) . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mrriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mrriapk@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.

**ADVENT PARTY** –Wednesday, December 6, 5:00-7:00pm. We'll share a soup supper, make some Advent and Christmas crafts, and sing carols together. Everyone of every age is welcome to join us for all or part of the evening. Please sign up TODAY if you plan to attend or if you can contribute a pot of soup.



### **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 19, 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.*

**Note:** If your birthday has not been listed, please email Kathy with your birthday and/or anniversary information. We don't want to miss anyone!

**JOYS:**

Thankful for a great Trivia night!  
Thankful for the recovery of Mike Anderson and Bill Vezina.  
Thankful for new friends.

**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  
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 Partner** this week is Cheryl Runnfeldt.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Burr Ridge U.C.C. and their Pastor, the Rev. Alicia Reese.

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



# Softly and Tenderly

*Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.*

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from  
 4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's  
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are  
 you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us

*Refrain*

watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come  
 com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. Come home,  
 par - don, par - don for you and for me.

home, All who are wea - ry, come home;  
 come home,

*Will Thompson established publishing firms in Chicago and East Liverpool, Ohio, the community to which he left a legacy of song. Dwight L. Moody once remarked that he would rather have written "Softly and Tenderly" than anything he had ever done.*

Tune: SOFTLY AND TENDERLY  
 11.7.11.7, with refrain  
 Will L. Thompson, 1880

CONSECRATION

Ear-nest-ly, ten-der-ly Je-sus is call-ing— call-ing, "O sin-ner, come home!"

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a vocal melody with lyrics: "Ear-nest-ly, ten-der-ly Je-sus is call-ing— call-ing, 'O sin-ner, come home!'". The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

31

*Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.*

*Unison Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti-ful, all crea-tures great and small,

*Last time, end*

All things wise and won-der-ful, our dear God made them all.

1 Each lit-tle flower that o-pens, each lit-tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur-ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv-er run-ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win-ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

*to Refrain*

God made their glow-ing col-ors, and made their ti-ny wings.  
 The sun-set, and the morn-ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
 The ripe fruits in the gar-den, God made them ev-ery one.

*This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.*

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
 English melody  
 Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

# "Lift Up Your Hearts!"

Henry M. Butler, 1881; alt.

Unison

1 "Lift up your hearts!" We lift them up to you,  
 2 A - bove the lev - el of the for - mer years,  
 3 Lift ev - ery gift that God to us has given;  
 4 Then as the trum - pet call, in af - ter years,

for in your pres - ence it is right to do;  
 the mire of sin, the weight of guilt - y fears;  
 low lies the best till blessed by God in heaven;  
 "Lift up your hearts!" rings peal - ing in our ears,

"Lift up your hearts!" In joy to - geth - er laud,  
 The mist of doubt, the blight of love's de - cay,  
 Low lie the bound - ing heart, the teem - ing brain,  
 With spir - its one, with hearts in - spired and awed,

"We lift them up, we lift them up to God."  
 O God of life, lift all our hearts to - day!  
 till, once more, they re - turn to God a - gain.  
 "We lift them up, we lift them up to God!"

*This text is a meditation written for students at Harrow School, England. It is based on a liturgical dialogue, Sursum Corda, used since the third century in the Eastern and Western church to introduce the eucharistēō or prayer of consecration.*

Tune: WOODLANDS 10.10.10.10.  
 Walter Greatores, 1916

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