



Genealogy of Christ, by Lauren Wright-Pittman, Digital Painting created for A Sanctified Art Generation to Generation Advent Devotional 2022

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond  
United Church of Christ  
Our Church at Worship on The First Sunday of  
Advent  
The Sunday of Hope**

**November 27, 2022**

**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.

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Voices through the generations answer the question, "What gives you hope?"

Community Church, what gives you hope?

GATHERING SONG "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Verse: **O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**And ransom captive Israel**

**That mourns in lowly exile here**

**Until the son of God appear**

Chorus: **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Kazimier

One: In God's house, everyone is welcome – those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there's room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives.

Let us pray:

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

**All: But we say, "Our lives are too messy."**

One: You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

**All: But we say, "It's too risky to hope."**

One: You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

**All: But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."**

One: God of today and God of tomorrow,  
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

**All: Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.  
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**

One: Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

**All: There's room for every story. Amen.**

One: Family of faith, Hear the good news:

We who feel scattered are held together.

We who have lost our way are forgiven and found.

And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are  
told, "There's room for you here."

From generation to generation, this is the good news of the  
gospel: In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and  
welcomed.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

HYMN

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

#32

(Introduction) G G7 C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale  
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry  
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise  
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save  
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks  
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life  
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace  
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

## 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 “Wherever Love Is”

**Wherever love is, God is there too.**

**God is in me ‘cause I love you.**

**Wherever love is, God is there too.**

**God is wherever love is.**

Words & music by Bryan Sirchio, 1991, Crosswind Music.

## **WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

## Ruth 1:6-22

Then Naomi started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.”

Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” She said to them, “Call me no longer Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

DEDICATION OF OUR PLEDGES

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (we say together)

**We believe in a God  
who promised to Abraham,  
who wrestled with Jacob,  
who walked with Ruth,  
who spoke with Moses,  
who grieved with Bathsheba,  
who danced with David,  
who dreamed with Joseph,  
and who hoped like Mary.  
We believe in a God who has been  
loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us  
from generation to generation.  
And we believe that same God  
is here with us now,  
saying, “Come on in; there’s room for you here.”  
Amen.**

TIME OF PRAYER

Song “Waiting for You”

**We are waiting for You  
knowing that You always abide.  
We are waking to Your presence  
and our hearts are open wide, open wide.**

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy, Copyright 2004, Administrator: Local Church Ministries, UCC

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.**

## THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued financial support of our friends and members!

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

## HYMN

### “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

#119

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "My Soul Gives Glory to My God". It includes a title, a composer credit (Miriam Therese Winter, 1987), a reference (Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10), and the number 119. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise. 2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name. 3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love in - parts, 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro - motes the in - se - cure, 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup - ports those in dis - tress, God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways. All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim. dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts. leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor. re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness." The score ends with the text "Tune: MORNING SONG, C.M."

## 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, Opening Prayer, and Affirmation of Faith by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Music shared under CCLI License No. 1908882.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR LEARNING**

**BIBLE STUDY** will be Tuesday on Zoom at 1:30. We read and discuss the sermon Scripture for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join in and no special knowledge is needed. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. This Tuesday we'll be discussing Esther 4.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS** continue today during Sunday School time. Talk to Jean Valsa if you're interested in helping in any way. Our young people will offer the pageant in worship on December 11.

### **FOR CONNECTION**

**ADVENT PARTY** –Wednesday, November 30, 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.

### **FOR SERVICE**

**NEW CHURCH OFFICERS:** As we get ready for the new year, the Church Cabinet is seeking a church member to serve as Vice President for 2023 (and then probably as President in 2024) and also seeking a new Clerk of the Cabinet. Outgoing VP Elise Livingston can talk to you about that position (as well as the many other church members who have served in that way) and Mary Ann Keil can fill you in on the Clerk's position.

**HELPING THE CHURCH AT NO COST TO YOU:** How can you help the church finances without costing you any money? You can buy gift cards of course! You buy the card, you use the card, and the church gets a percentage of that. Do you go to Jewel or Meijer every week? Do you have a Starbucks account that you can load the card onto the app? Do you order often from Amazon? What about those restaurants right down the road in McHenry? Jewel pays us 4% of every gift card purchased through this fundraiser; Meijer pays 3% and Starbucks pays 4.5%. Most of the McHenry restaurant chains pay us 8%! Home Depot, Ace, and Kohls are 4%.

If you are spending the money at these places, why not pay up front, get a gift card, and help out the church. It just takes a little preplanning on your part, but no extra money!

**Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly.** See Penny's post below for details on how to order. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at [www.raiseright.com/brands](http://www.raiseright.com/brands)

**GIFT CARD ORDERING:** Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! If you give Penny a gift card order on Sunday, your cards are usually here by midweek. Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mriapk@gmail.com) or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY:** Our Church's Wider Mission 2022

Christmas Family from the Richmond-Spring Grove Community Food Pantry this year is a family of five, Mom, Dad, Girl 15, Boy 12 and Boy 10.

We will be using SignUp.com again this year. Below are the 3 easy steps instructions to get to our online site.

Please wrap your gift and tag it with the following information:

Gift #, Family R, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age.

No Bows Please, they just fall off.

If you purchase gift cards, please put it in an envelope with this information Gift #, Family R, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age and place it in the Box marked Mom. All Gifts need to be returned by **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

*The December 13 date on the SignUp sheet is the date the site closes.*

- 1) Click or enter this link <https://signup.com/go/pPKxeCZ> in your URL bar to see our the list on SignUp.com or scan this code with your smartphone camera now:
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.



If you have any questions, please contact Karen Wootton at 815-271-0056

**COMING WORSHIP EVENTS**

Sunday, December 11                      Advent Worship with Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 18                      Advent Worship with Christmas Cantata Greatest Hits offered by the Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 24, 8:00 PM        Christmas Eve Worship for All with Candles and Carols and the Christ-child

Sunday, December 25, 9:00 AM                      Everyone is invited to worship with our neighbors at First Congregational UCC in Genoa City at 9:00 AM. The church is at 624 Park St. in Genoa City and their pastor, The Rev. Pat Handley will be leading worship. There will be NO worship service held at our church building that day.

Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM                      Ring in the new year with a joyful praise and worship. It's PAJAMA Sunday, so come in your new holiday PJs, your favorite winter sweatsuit, or whatever is most comfortable for you on the first morning of the new year. Our neighbors from Genoa City are invited to join us as we share communion, receive star words, and pray for God's blessing on the year that is to come.

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

Liturgist	Cheryl Kazimier
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs
Fellowship Hosts	Nicki Carter
Sunday School	Jean and pageant team

**Dec 4**

Liturgist	George Zimmermann
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Sunday School	Jean and pageant team
Communion Set-up	

**Dec 11**

Liturgist	Pageant Day
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	

**Dec 18**

Liturgist	Ron Obara
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Fellowship Hosts	The Karches
Sunday School	

Are you willing to help with any of these jobs? Let Pastor Hope know.

**COVID UPDATES:** Masks are currently optional at worship and church gatherings. Stay home if you're feeling sick and maintain a healthy distance from other households during worship. We make decisions about our community's standards based on Jesus' command to love each other and protect the most vulnerable among us.

## **PRAYERS for the Week of November 27, 2022**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, Please send them to Pastor Hope [pastorhope@richmonducc.org](mailto:pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office email, [office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!

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

**JOYS:** Birthdays: Ken Kazimier (Nov. 28), MaryAnn Keil (Dec. 3)  
Nicki's safe return from her trip to Arizona

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Yvonne Kemp, continued prayers and thanks that she is improving  
Those awaiting test results  
Those recovering from the snowstorms around Buffalo, NY  
Those killed, injured, and traumatized by the shootings in Colorado Springs, CO, at the Virginia Walmart, and by gun violence everywhere  
Cheryl Heber's friend, Jennifer

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca  
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin  
Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family  
Melissa Jones's mother, Ella Watts  
Louise Strahs' niece, Amy Lenik

**Our Congregational Prayer Partner** this week is Carol Sligting.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ:  
St. John's U.C.C. in Waukegan and their Pastor, the Rev. Selena Blackwell.

**Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:** Bob Krueger (Libertyville), Betty Waspi (at home)

## **NOTES ON THE FRONT COVER ART**

READ Matthew 1:1-17.

Matthew starts his telling of the Jesus story by providing a genealogy of Jesus that starts at Abraham and traces 42 generations (according to Matthew) all the way to Jesus. In that genealogy, the ancestry is traced almost entirely through the men, but there are five women named – yes, five women worthy of mention through 42 generations. They are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. They are the women represented on the front cover today; Tamar is the woman in the bottom left, and then moving counter-clockwise, they are Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. None of these women had a simple, straight-forward story of marriage and childbearing. Each one of them some hard decisions to make. Of the five of them, they were all of Gentile background except for Mary. It is truly remarkable that of all the women involved in these many generations between Abraham and Jesus, Matthew lifts up these to be named as mothers of the faith. You can read more about the artist's intention in her work when you read your Advent devotional this week.

You can review the stories of these women in your Bible or at a stie like [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

Tamar is in Genesis 38.

Rahab is in Joshua 2.

Bathsheba's story (She's "the wife of Uriah", who, you might remember King David has killed so that he can take Uriah's wife as his own.) begins in 2 Samuel 11.

And young Mary is told about in Matthew 1 and Luke 1 & 2.

You might be surprised at many of the details you find in those stories.

In the meantime, remember that if those women were chosen and blessed and served holy purposes that they could not fully know in their times of struggle, then perhaps there truly is room for every story within God's story. Even yours. Even your neighbors'. Even the story of your most challenging family member.

Glory be to God.