

**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 28, 2021 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.

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship.

You can access that video even if you don't have a Facebook account – just type in <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityChurchOfRichmond/>

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG "God with Us" Kim May

You've come	Our redemption
To bring peace	God with us
To be love	You are God with us
To be nearer to us	

You've come	You've come
To bring life	To be hope
To be light	To this world
To shine brighter in us	For Your honor and name

Oh Emmanuel	You've come
God with us	To take sin
	To bear shame
Our Deliverer	And to conquer the grave

You are Savior	You are here and
In Your presence we find our strength	You are holy
	We are standing
Over everything	In Your glory (Lord)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ronnie Obara

One: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

**All: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.**

One: Yes, we are homesick **for joy that is contagious,**

**All: for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that
run empty.**

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

All: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

One: God is here. God is still creating.

Let us worship Holy God.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Obara Family

Ronnie, Ina, Tiana, Zofia

OPENING PRAYER

One: Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day—
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow
cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's
impossible?

**All: Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using
it to fuel a better world.
Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray,
amen.**

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we
give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We
are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and
trust this good news: There is room for us in God's house, and
nothing can separate us from that love. We are forgiven. We are
welcomed home.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN

"Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"

#112

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

WORD FOR ALL AGES

After this time the children are dismissed to practice for the Christmas pageant.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 32:1-3a

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah 32:6-17

Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the Lord, saying: Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

MESSAGE Homesick but with Hope

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

SONG RESPONSE “Drawing Nearer”

Christopher Grundy

Even in the midst of all of this,
Trouble on the news, no peace within,
Still there is a light in the distance
Drawing nearer
Drawing nearer.

So Open up our eyes to see your light,
Open up our arms, they're clenched so tightly,
Come in like a thief and steal
Our hearts
Like a baby,
Like a baby.
Even in the midst of all of this.

TIME OF PRAYER

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.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #116 Verses 1,2,&3

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time!
You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

Prayer of Dedication

Write on our hearts, Lord, your way of living; may it dwell within our hearts so we would be your servants in all that we are, in all that we do, in all that we give, in all that we offer. Bless now these offerings given with generosity and grace that they might be used in the service of your kingdom. Amen.

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 Sirching Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI)

*POSTLUDE

We are still not serving fellowship snacks or coffee, but you are welcome to visit together in the sanctuary after worship.

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting words by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org." CCLI License No. 1908882

CHURCH NEWS

BIBLE STUDY is back! We meet on Zoom each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. No special knowledge is needed! This Tuesday, we'll be studying Ezekiel 37:1-14

POINSETTIA ORDERS (DUE TODAY): If you'd like to sponsor a poinsettia to brighten up the sanctuary and then take home to enjoy, please complete your order form and return it with your \$15 payment today, November 28th. Checks can be made to The Community Church of Richmond, but please specify "poinsettias" in the memo line. Please include your payment when you order. You can leave your order forms and payment in the offering plate in the sanctuary, or stop by the church during the week and leave them in the mailbox outside Brandi's office.

FINANCIAL PLEDGES

Many of you have received a letter and pledge card to tell us your expected giving to the church for 2022. Please return those pledge cards to the church as soon as you are able. This is also a great time of year to consider making a 'bonus' gift of gratitude and support to the church if you find yourself in a position to do so. Our continued thanks extends to all of you for all the ways you support the financial life of the church.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY: Wider Missions has accepted a family of 5 for our Christmas Family from the Richmond-Spring Grove Community Food Pantry. This family has 4 children: Boy, age 10, who is autistic; Girl, age 9; Girl, age 6, who's also autistic, and a Boy, age 2, with a single mom. You can sign up for Community Church of Richmond Christmas Family Gifts at <https://signup.com/go/BysogbR>

Please wrap your gift and tag it with the following information. Gift #, Family Y, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age. No bows please, they just fall off. If you purchase a gift card, please put it in an envelope labeled with this information: Gift #, Family Y, Name (boy-girl-mom) and Age. Place it in the Box marked Mom. All gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 12th.

We're using SignUp.com to organize. Here's how it works:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp : <https://signup.com/go/BysogbR>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! You will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

DECEMBER EVENTS

- The choir from Richmond Burton High School will be performing a winter concert here at the church on Wednesday, December 8, 10 AM.
- Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 12, during worship
- Christmas Appeal Family: Presents need to be brought, wrapped and labelled, to the church by December 12.
- Live Community Church Advent Calendar: George Zimmermann and Elise Livingston are coordinating this fun new adventure! Give one of them a call to schedule your participation.
- Christmas Eve Worship: In-person and online, 8:00 PM, December 24.

May you engage with these opportunities to the fullest as we prepare to greet the Holy One among us.

PRAYERS for the Week of November 28, 2021

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

JOYS: We rejoice with Kathy Speaker's Aunt Elaine as she is now cancer-free

PRAYERS FOR:

Waukesha, WI
Bob Howe
Marti Swanson's friend, Mary
The Crutchers' son, Benjamin
Refugees on the Belarus border
Cheryl Heber's family friend, Margaret
Rob Rummel
Deann Workmon
Bill Haase's daughter, Barb Haase
Marti Swanson's long-time friend, Judy Coomes Wenzel
Sheryl Vezina

Ongoing Prayers:

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family
Julie Leighninger
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:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling),
Bob Krueger, Betty Waspi

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

Isa. 2:1-5; 60:1-3; 64:1-9; Matt. 24:36-44;
Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; 1 Thess. 3:9-13

Arthur G. Clyde, 1993

1 Keep a-wake, be al - ways rea - dy, God's time ap - proach-es
2 Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose love will quench all

sure and stea - dy, God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
na - ture's thirst - ing to be made whole for - ev - er more.

Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis - perse, God's pur - est
On that day to end all weep - ing, death's swords trans - formed to

light re - veal - ing; cre - a - tion will its Sov-ereign name. Dry
tools of reap - ing, the God of might will mer - cy pour. In -

This new text, written to reflect the readings for the first Sunday in Advent, is set to a traditional tune of the season by sixteenth-century Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai.

Tune: WACHET AUF 8.9.8.8.9.8.6.6.4.8.8.
Philipp Nicolai, 1599
Harm. J. S. Bach, 1731

branch - es burst forth green, God's ad - vent signs are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah!
car - nate, God ap - pears em - brac - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ's judg - ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gun.
God's maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710
Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Unison

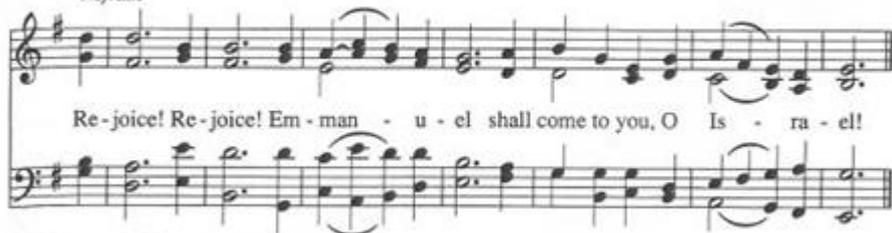
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from - on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and night; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

In the medieval Western church, seven "Great O" antiphons, the basis for this hymn, were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas, ending with what appears above as the first stanza.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL. L.M. with refrain
 Melody from a 15th-century French "Processional"
 Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Refrain


Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!

- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
(Refrain)
- 7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(Refrain)