

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

**Our Church at Worship on the 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 17, 2021 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.

**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 “May How We Live Give Praise To You”

Kim May and Penny Kraft

Verse 1: **Come let's give praise O people of God.
Let's count the ways we've been blessed by Love.
The Love that makes all the Love
that makes all things new again.**

Verse 2: **For all that's real, for all that's true.
For grace that heals and opens us
to forgiveness beyond,
for forgiveness beyond imagining.**

Chorus: **Holy One,
may how we live give praise to you!
May how we live give praise to you!
May how we live give praise to you!**

Verse 3: **Come let us sing, of justice Divine.
Let freedom ring for all human kind
and when we sing praise, and when we sing praise
God strengthens us.**

Verse 4: **Strength to have hearts more loving and free.
Strength for new starts and strength to believe,
despite all the odds despite all the odds
stones roll away.**

Chorus:

Words and Music: Brian Sirchio

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

One: The joyful, the grieving, the singing, the sighing: Come!

All: We come and seek the Lord our God.

One: The trusting, the doubting, the happy, the angry: Come!

All: We come and seek the Lord our God.

One: The babies who are carried, the aged who are helped in, the antsy, the calm: Come!

All: We come and seek the Lord our God.

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, come and seek the Lord our God, who welcomes us all.

Let us pray:

Meet us here, holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant your Word among us, so it maybe spring up in nurturing ways for the sake of all your creatures. In these moments of worship, may we find the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus, to trust you and your will for us. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 105

One: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

ALL: Sing praises to God; tell of God's wonderful works!

One: When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it, wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, the Lord allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, saying, "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."

ALL: Sing praises to God; tell of God's wonderful works!

One: When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him.

The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.

ALL: Sing praises to God; tell of God's wonderful works!

One: Then Israel came to Egypt...

And the Lord made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes, whose hearts he turned to hate his people.

He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

They performed his signs among them, and miracles in the land of

Egypt...Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

ALL: Sing praises to God; tell of God's wonderful works!

One: For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. He gave them the lands of the nations, that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

ALL: Sing praises to God; tell of God's wonderful works!

HYMN "Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You" #510 Kim May

SCRIPTURE READING

I Kings 3:4-15

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

MESSAGE What to Get the King who has Everything

SONG "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" Kim May

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime.

Words and music: traditional

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

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

“Grant Us, O God, a Little Space” #516

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. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates at the front or back of the sanctuary.

Prayer of Dedication

For bringing us safely to this hour, we thank you, God. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your calling on us. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we've received. May our prayers unite us with other and with Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again” (#81)

**God be with you ‘til we meet again;
By good counsel, guide, uphold you;
With a shepherd’s care enfold you;
God be with you ‘til we meet again.
‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet, ‘til we meet at Jesus’ feet.
‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet,
God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

Credits: Call, HEAM; Opening prayer, L. Baylor, Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A,
Proper 12. CCLI License 1908882.

Please head OUTSIDE to have your after-worship conversations.

NEW 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 I Kings 5:1-12

CHURCH NEWS

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on October 31. All Saints is the day in the year when we name and remember all those loved ones who have died in the past 12 months. If you have lost a loved one during this past year who would like us to name aloud in worship on the 31st, please share that person's name and their connection to you with Pastor Hope or Office Manager, Brandi Pletcher, no later than Wednesday, Oct. 27.

MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF

If you're interested in learning more about the medical debt relief program described in last week's bulletin, join the Illinois Conference All-Conference Chat on Zoom, this Wednesday at 3:00 PM. The meeting can be reached at Meeting ID: 899 3000 2174 Passcode: 965913. Everyone is welcome!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING: In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant communities. One-third of Neighbors in Need funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities. We'll receive this annual special offering throughout the month of October.

BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER

Our Mission Ministry is again having a Butter Braid fundraiser to earn money for our area missions. The start date is 10/31/21 and the end date is 11/14/21. The distribution is scheduled for 11/17/21. For each Butter Braid the cost will be \$14, and the order

forms will be distributed by our start date of 10/31/21. Please place your order when you receive the form, and enjoy the yummy taste and the tantalizing smells of the Butter Braids for your holidays. The best part is that you will be helping those in need.

CHURCH FALL FUN

Sunday, October 24, 1-5 pm at Richardson's Adventure Farm! Rob and Carol are donating a picnic area for us again this year for a church gathering! We will be "bringing our own everything" for picnicking together. More details to come soon. Also, in lieu of an entry fee, you may make a good-will offering to go to the church.

PUMPKIN CARVING

Thursday, October 28th, 6:00-7:30PM. Come enjoy pumpkin carving with your church friends! Masks will be necessary and so are RSVPs. Let Pastor Hope or Jean Valsa know by Sunday, October 24th, how many from your family plan to attend. We won't be providing a meal this year – families can either eat ahead of time or bring their own dinner to eat at safely distanced table in the fellowship hall. We'll still have plenty of fall fun being together again!

TRIVIA NIGHT (UPDATED)

The Church Cabinet has decided that we will not hold Trivia Night at this time out of caution for public health. We consider this to be just a DELAY. Trivia Night WILL be back, and when it is, we'll enjoy all the food and fun and laughter that we've enjoyed together in years past.

CABINET UPDATE

The Church Cabinet met on Zoom last Tuesday night. September was not a great month financially – we ended the month with about \$35,000 in our general account and about \$192,000 total non-endowment assets, representing a loss of about \$7,000 in the month. We remind the church that the large majority of our costs are fixed (mostly in salaries), and regular giving is what helps keep us on stable footing. Also, with the decision not to hold Trivia Night this fall, the church leaders are seeking other ideas of new things to try for both fellowship and fundraising. If you've got ideas, do share! The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, at 7PM.

What to Expect at Indoor Worship

Expect to...

1. Wear your mask the whole time you are in the church building.
2. Pick up a bulletin from near the doorways when you come in.
3. Sit only with members of your household or 'pod' (people you regularly interact with outside of church).
3. Respect the social distancing marked in the pews, leaving space between the people around you. This might even mean sitting in a place you're not used to in the sanctuary.
4. Let Kim and Penny do most of the singing. The congregation will sing a song after the sermon and the closing response.
5. Leave your offerings in the offering plates that will be at the front of the sanctuary and also near the bulletins.
6. Go outside after the closing response for fellowship and conversation. Please don't do your mingling inside.
7. Stay home if you have a new cough, fever, or any other new COVID-like symptoms, or if you know you've recently spent time with someone who was COVID-positive.
8. Finally, expect to delight in worshipping our God together in a place that has brought joy and comfort to many people over many years!

We take these precautions out of love and care for each other, most especially for our church children and others who are still particularly vulnerable at this time. We continue to look forward to the time when these precautions won't be necessary. Until then, let us be caring, be patient, and help protect one another.

We are following the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health, but also the instruction of our faith which tells us to show love for our neighbor, to protect the vulnerable, and to humbly consider others more important than ourselves.

Prayers for the Week of October 17, 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

Birthdays: Henry Molozaizy (Oct 21)

PRAYERS FOR:

Marti Swanson's long-time friend, Judy Coomes Wenzel
Sheryl Vezina
Linda and Lee's granddaughter, Bethany
Ina Obara's father
Mercedes Ahlgrim
Deann Workmon
Betty Waspi

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 would love to hear from you.

Betty Waspi, Room 30, Lake Geneva Golden Years
611 Harmony Dr, Lake Geneva WI 53147.
Direct phone: 262-203-9092