

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020 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. If you can't join promptly at 10:00, the video will be available later as well.

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

GATHERING SONG

“Isaiah 55 Chorus”

Penny Kraft & Kim May

**Come, everyone who's thirsty,
Come to the waters and drink!
And you who have no money,
Here we can all buy and eat!**

**Come, buy all you need,
without money and without price.
O why do we work and spend so much
for that which won't satisfy?
Beloved, incline your ear to me!
Delight in what's good and come to me!
Listen now, and I will give you rest!**

We will sing twice through.

Music and lyrics, Bryan Sirchio, Crosswind Music

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Mike Kennedy

One: The Spirit of God passed over, and it was terrible and wondrous.
The Spirit of God came, and those who loved God were saved.
The Spirit of God comes today – calling us to worship the one eternal God.
We gather. We worship

One: Let us pray:
Eternally present God,
you journey with us through wilderness and through desert.

All: You feed us with finest wheat and sweet honey from the rock. (Ps. 81:16)

One: In every circumstance, the signs of your presence are with us:
sometimes in fire and cloud; sometimes in bread from heaven.

All: You feed us with finest wheat and sweet honey from the rock.

One: As we are scattered in praise and prayer,
reveal yourself to us in cross and candle, in Bible and email.

All: You feed us with finest wheat and sweet honey from the rock.

One: We wait for you in glad reverence and expectant awe. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18, NCH

Lyrics, William Williams, 1745; Tune: Cwm Rhondda, 1907

Verse 1:

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.**

Verse 2:

**Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield, ever be my strength and shield.**

Verse 3:

**When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you.**



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SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 22:7-13 (NRSV)

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.” They asked him, “Where do you want us to make preparations for it?” “Listen,” he said to them, “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, “Where is the guest

room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.” So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

WORD FOR ALL AGES - In this part of worship, we're going to talk about what happened with Moses and Pharaoh and the Israelites BEFORE the 10th plague and the night of the Passover. If you won't be in worship with us, get your Bible and skim over the first 10 chapters of Exodus. Pharaoh had lots of chances to change his mind and do as God asked; why do you think he didn't? Moses wasn't eager to go and do what God asked either, but he did; can you remember a time when God has helped you do a hard thing?

SPECIAL MUSIC "Be Unto Your Name"

Gary Sadler & Lynn DeShazo, 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI License No. 1779535

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 12:1-13, 28-29, 40-41, 51; 13:3-8 (NRSV)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

... The Israelites went and did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.

... The time that the Israelites had lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years. At the end of four hundred thirty years, on that very day, all the companies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

... Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this observance in this month. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival to the Lord. Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen in your possession, and no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory. You shall tell your child on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

MESSAGE "Promises, Promises: Past and Future Promise"

HYMN "We Praise You, O God" #420 Lyrics, Julia Cory, 1902; Tune, Kresmer, 1626

Verse 1:

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

Verse 2:

**We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you never will forsake us,
and with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.**

Verse 3:

**With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

PASTORAL PRAYER - For your reflection during this week:

Gracious and almighty God, you ask us to remember your saving acts, but we would rather pretend that we are masters of our own fate. You ask us to tell our children and our neighbors about you, but too often we are afraid to speak of you or our faith. You invite us to rely on you to provide all we need, but we hoard our possessions and our wealth, afraid that we'll not have enough. You lead us into new places and new experiences, but we would rather stay where we are, even if that means staying in bondage. You command us to love you with all our heart, and our neighbors as ourselves, but many are the days when we do not. Forgive us and renew us, so that we may joyfully follow where you lead. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness (from Psalm 103): The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not deal with us according to our sins, for the Lord has compassion for those who revere him. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace!

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.

Doxology – You are invited to sing

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, you heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time! Though we rarely see each other in person these days, our church is still: providing worship; providing Sunday school for our church kids; connecting members with each other; supporting neighbors in need, locally and further away. We believe those things are parts of God's calling for us in this place and we can do them because of steady financial support.

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

Prayer of Dedication – You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church... O Lord, you have provided for all our needs. We offer our gift of money today, knowing that it is only a small part of what we can offer – our whole being, our energy, our passion, our service to your kingdom. Accept these offerings, and use them for your purposes in the world. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Something Beautiful for God” Lyrics & Music, Bryan Sirchio, Crosswind Music

Today let us do something beautiful for God
Do something small, but do it with great love.
Do what you can, where you are, with what you’ve got.
Today let us do something beautiful for God.

POSTLUDE

Call to worship and Prayer of Dedication, from Spill the Beans, Issue 20, pp. 35 and 36; Opening prayer, adp. from Chalice Worship #156; Pastoral Prayer, Lorinda H.M. Hoover, CC BY-SA 3.0; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

CABINET MEETING Tomorrow night, 10/12, at 7:00 PM. Pastor Hope will send the Zoom link to Cabinet members. If you have business Cabinet needs to discuss, please contact Robert Richardson or Pastor Hope.

THIRD THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP This Thursday, on Zoom, from 6:45 to 7:30. Since two church friends, Mike Pyne and Dorothy Myslinski, have passed away in recent weeks, perhaps we can take some time on Thursday to share some memories and stories of our times with those precious people. Pastor Hope will send out the link mid-week.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, November 1 All Saints Day is when the church honors those who died as witnesses of the Christian faith. These days, in churches like ours, the names of deceased members and loved ones from the past year are read during the service on All Saints Sunday. We know it’s been a year of hard losses and missed opportunities to grieve together, so if you have loved ones whose names you would like shared during this worship, please contact Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) and Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org) **by October 28**.

BIBLE BACKGROUND The story of the 10th plague that fell upon Egypt sounds appalling to our modern ears. A few points to consider: This story has troubled many people for many years. The Jewish tradition of Passover has long included the spilling of 10 drops of wine to remember the plagues and to indicate that those who partake are not “drinking to” the death of the Egyptians.

As far as the story goes, let's remember they Israelites have been slaves for 400 years. At the start of Exodus, Pharaoh wanted to kill off every boy child of the Hebrews, amounting to a complete genocide; his efforts fail because he's not ultimately in charge of life and death. Pharaoh has been told of their wish to go free, on behalf of their God, many times now, and has watched his land and his people suffer through the great sufferings of the 9 other plagues and has not flinched.

There is also a 'cosmic' struggle going on here. Pharaoh, like the Roman Caesar generations after him, was considered more god than mortal. There is a struggle to see which deity will rule over these people: Pharaoh, with his oppression and slavery, or Yahweh, who will redeem them into freedom. Finally, remember this is not primarily a history story. There's no documentation outside of ancient Scripture that supports the idea that thousands of Israelite slaves left Egypt en masse. It is

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Will be received the next couple weeks. Neighbors in Need is one of the annual offerings we receive as part of the wider United Church of Christ. One-third of this offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry. The remainder supports the many works of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, ranging from local food pantries to community organizing and advocacy. To support this offering, make your check out to The Community Church of Richmond and use the memo line to specify "Neighbors in Need offering."

OFFERING OF LETTERS The Wider Mission Ministry and our mission partner, Bread for the World, invite us all to reach out to our representatives in Congress in support of legislation to provide food and nutrition programs quickly in response to the ongoing COVID-19 hunger crisis. For a sample letter to send to your representatives or to learn more, visit www.bread.org and click on the "Act Now" at the center of the page.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH – Our mission partners at Advocate Aurora Health remind us that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. You may be in an abusive relationship if your partner: Shows extreme jealousy of your friends and time spent away; insults, demeans, or shames you with put-downs; controls every penny spend in the household; intimidates you with guns, knives, or other weapons; tells you that you can never do anything right. If you have concerns about what's happening in your relationship, call or chat the National Domestic Violence Hotline. 800-799-7233 or thehotline.org

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY meets at our usual 2:00 time this Tuesday afternoon on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join in this weekly discussion of the Bible text for the coming Sunday. Contact Pastor Hope for the meeting link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY While we'd rather be together, we're excited to continue holding weekly Sunday school for our church kids along with kids and teachers from UCC churches in Mundelein. We meet on Zoom from 10:30-11:00 each Saturday morning. The kids have a good time seeing each other and hearing some of the great Bible stories. If you have a school-aged child in your household, we'd love to have you attend. And you're welcome, as always, to invite a friend to Sunday school.

LAWN CHAIR (OFFICE) HOURS – None this week.

Our Part in the Story: Daily Devotions on Sunday's Text

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

Read this story over again and consider these questions.

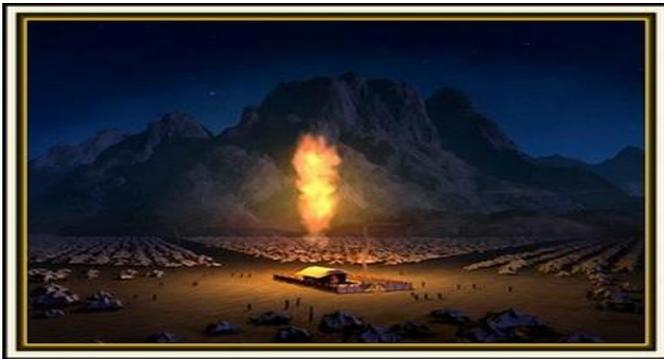
❖ The text gives very explicit instructions on how to observe the Passover. Read it and discuss which images stand out most to you.

❖ The Passover celebration is an ancient and rich ritual. Do some research on how it is honored. A good video is found at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/passover>.

❖ The ritual described in this text honors the faithfulness of a God who passed over the homes of the Israelites when he struck down every first born in Egypt, and then who delivered the Israelites out of slavery. People still follow these instructions very specifically. Do you have any rituals that you reenact the same way every time? Why do you do that? What do you celebrate?

❖ What kinds of food practices do you know of? Why do people observe them?

Pray for your family and friends, for deliverance from things that enslave you, for your highs and lows, and for people observing rituals of faith.



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Daily Readings – These readings span the story between this Sunday's text and next Sunday's. Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

Monday: The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Exodus 13:17-22

❖ How does God guide you on your journey of faith?

Tuesday: Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 14:1-30

❖ What do you think you could do in God's name if you had more trust in how God has empowered you?

Wednesday: Songs of Moses and Miriam

Exodus 15:1-21

❖ What is your favorite song of God's victory? Moses had a difficult time speaking. Do you think that is an important thing to consider when reading his song?

Thursday: Bread from Heaven

Exodus 16:1-30

❖ How do you think the Israelites responded when Moses explained that God would provide food from heaven for them every day?

Friday: The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:21

❖ You may have read these verses many times. What stands out to you this time?

Saturday: Additional Laws

Exodus 23:1-12

❖ What do these laws have in common?

PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER 11, 2020

Names are added to our prayer list when shared with Pastor Hope or by contacting the church office (office@richmonducc.org). We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

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!

JOYS:

Birthdays: Yvonne Kemp (10/13), Dave Heber (10/14)

SYMPATHIES: We share our grief and sympathies with Dorothy Myslinski's family after she passed away last weekend.

CONCERNS

Lydia Blanton

Katy Cartier, whose local home has sold and is moving to FL

Sarah Richardson, Rob and Carol's daughter-in-law, pregnant with twins

Juliet Visitacion, our mission partner

Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly DeSalvo

People affected by severe weather, including ongoing hurricanes and wildfires

Deann Workman

Pastor Hope's friend, Norma Keller

Pastor Hope's friend, Betsy Tesch

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers, staff, and administrators; school children and their parents, including college students

Those whose household relationships are strained

Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic

Those who wait in self-quarantine after exposure to COVID-19

Healthcare workers, especially Cheryl Kazimier's niece and Rob Rummel's daughter-in-law

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:

Ruthann Walters (Indiana)

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico)

Sharon Mensing (Sterling)

June Whitney (at home)