

OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God, unseen, invisible to the eye, and yet present with us in all of creation,
in scripture, in story, in the lives of others,
and most especially in Jesus,

All: We wander. We gather. We seek your face.

One: You want us to focus our eyes, our lives on you,
and yet too often, like those before us, we lose focus and turn away.
We build idols of gold and gadgets, of sports and security.

All: We wander. We gather. We seek your face.

One: Forgive us, O God, as you forgave your people Israel.

All: We wander. We gather. We seek your face.

One: The journey is long.
We get lost. We get fed up.
We get weary. We get fearful.
Help us to keep our focus on you.

All: We wander. We gather. We seek your face.

One: Keep us hopeful and trusting, humble and honest,
silent and listening for your still small voice,
in the wind, the fire, the cloud, and wherever you will speak to us.

All: We wander. We gather. We seek your face.

One: May it be so. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

#23, New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Frederick William Faber, 1854; Tune: In Babilone, 1906

Verse 1:

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than li-ber-ty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

Verse 2:

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 106:6-12, 19-23

Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.
Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wonderful works;
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,
but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea.

Yet he saved them for his name's sake, so that he might make known his mighty power.
He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry; he led them through the deep as through a desert.
So he saved them from the hand of the foe, and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.
The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left.
Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.

They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image.
They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.
They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,
wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
Therefore he said he would destroy them
— had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

WORD FOR ALL AGES The people of Israel took all their gold earrings, melted them down, and made a golden calf that was going to be their representative of God. What represents God to you? As you go about your week, look for symbols, like corporate logos, structures, messages, and human representatives, that people tend to idolize. Talk with somebody in your house or family about the difference between worship and idolatry.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Break Through” Music and lyrics, Tommy Walker

“Break through, break through all my doubts
Break through, break through all my fears
Break through that I may worship You
Break through, break through all my pain
Break through all my guilt and my shame
Break through like only You can do...”

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 32:1-14 (NRSV)

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

MESSAGE Promises, Promises: Remember the Promise

HYMN "Your Grace is Enough" Lyrics and music, Matt Maher

Verse 1: **Great is Your faithfulness O God;
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
You lead me by still waters into mercy,
where nothing can keep us apart.**

Bridge: **So remember Your people;
remember Your children;
Remember Your promise, O God.**

Chorus: **Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough for me.**

Verse 2: **Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of heaven's vict'ry;
And all Your people sing along.**

Bridge **So remember Your people;
remember Your children;
Remember Your promise, O God.**

Chorus: **Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough for me.**

Repeat chorus

Final tag: **For me**

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.

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

Opening prayer, adp. from Prayer of Dedication, from Spill the Beans, Issue 20, pp. 44 and 36; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

PASTOR ON VACATION Pastor Hope will be on vacation this week, Oct 19 through Oct 25, so there won't be Bible study or lawn chair hours. Pastor Andy Tyrell of Grace Lutheran Church is on-call if there's a pastoral emergency. Worship on the 25th will be 10:00 on Facebook as usual, and will feature a guest preacher from the United Church of Christ national staff.

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**.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISING The last several years, we've had a great time together at Trivia Night, full of laughter and great snacks and (mostly) friendly competition. As part of that fun, we would have paid \$20/person to take part and planned to spend a little more on a drink or two, some silent auction items, and some of those silly games that the Anderson "kids" talk us into. If you're missing the fun and challenge of this event, perhaps you can send a special gift to the church in the amount of what you would have spent in a typical Trivia Night. Feel free to send along your suggestions for great trivia questions for 2021's event – we'll be sure to share them with our question writer!

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

LAWN CHAIR (OFFICE) HOURS – None this week.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY is on vacation this week.

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.

PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER 18, 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: Henry Molozaizy (10/21)

Carol Sligting's great-grandson, Aiden, was very ill this week, but now is home and doing much better
Juliet Visitacion, our mission partner, is recovering well from her recent surgery

CONCERNS

Katy Cartier, who has moved to FL
Sarah Richardson, Rob and Carol's daughter-in-law, pregnant with twins
Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly DeSalvo
People affected by severe weather, including ongoing hurricanes and wildfires
Deann Workman

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)

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

The Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-14

- ❖ Moses was on the mountain with the Lord for a long time. Do you think he wondered how the Israelites were doing? What do you think went through his mind?
- ❖ Why do you think the people felt the need for something to worship? Why couldn't they worship God without an idol?
- ❖ What do you think of Moses' prayer, pleading with God to not destroy the people?

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 Command to Leave Sinai Exodus 33:1-6

- ❖ How do you think the Israelites reconciled the good news that God would deliver them to the Promised Land with the harsh news that God would not go with them?

Tuesday: The Covenant Renewed Exodus 34:10-28

- ❖ How are these Ten Commandments different from the more familiar Ten? Why do you think these are less commonly known?

Wednesday: The Tabernacle is Completed Exodus 40:16-33

- ❖ Why do you think the Lord was so particular with the instructions for erecting the tabernacle?

Thursday: Aaron's Ordination Leviticus 9:22-24; 10:8-11

- ❖ Why do you think it was important for the Lord to hold such high expectations for Aaron?

Friday: The Day of Atonement Leviticus 16:29-34

- ❖ How do you practice confession and forgiveness of your sins?

Saturday: The Priestly Benediction Numbers 6:22-27

- ❖ How have you experienced these words? What do they say to you?