

All: Glory to you, O God.

One: Sometimes we're overwhelmed by all that the world throws at us and those we love, but evil will not have the final say; love wins every time.

All: Glory to you, O God.

One: Remind us that Jesus knew the pain and weakness of human life
- that he was hungry and thirsty, lonely and tired -
and he never gave up trusting that you were with him.
He trusted love would win.

All: Glory to you, O God.

One: As we worship today, help us trust again in your light,
hope in your word, and live in your presence,
for love will win in the end, always and forever.

All: Glory to you, O God.

One: Glory to you, O God. Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#25, The Hymnal, United Church of Christ; Lyrics, Joachim Neander, 1680; Tune: Lobe den Herren, 1665

Verse 1: **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
Come, ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!**

Verse 2: **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen all that is needful hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

Verse 3: **Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew all the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.**

Verse 4: **Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 5:1-7, 11-12

Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.
Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.
O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.
For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you.
The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.
But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house,
I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

...But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you.
For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover them with favor as with a shield.

WORD FOR ALL AGES – Samuel the priest thought that Hannah sounded “silly” when she prayed for a child. (The more traditional Bible translation is “crazy.”) Has anybody ever told you you sounded crazy when you told them your heart’s desire? How did that make you feel? Did you ever achieve or receive that thing you most desired? Whether yes or no, how did that make you feel? How can we be people who honor others’ deep desires instead of calling them names?

SPECIAL MUSIC “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**

SCRIPTURE READING I Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10 (NRSV)

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

... They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

... Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.

There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth;

for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.

Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,

but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.

The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts.

He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.

"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;

for not by might does one prevail.

The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven.

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king,

and exalt the power of his anointed."

MESSAGE Promises, Promises: Remembrances and Reversals

The Rev. Jeff Nelson, Minister for Ministerial Calls and Transitions for the United Church of Christ

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

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

#505, New Century Hymnal; Words, William Walford, 1845; Tune, Sweet Hour, 1861

Verse 1:

**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!**

Verse 2:

**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for your return!
With them I hasten to the place where I would know my Savior's face,
And gladly take my station there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!**

Verse 3:

**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my petition bear
to One whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, believe God's word, and trust God's grace,
I'll cast away my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!**

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, Opening prayer, Prayer of Dedication, adapted from Spill the Beans, Issue 20, pp. 52 and 36;
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NEW NEWS

WIDER MISSIONS MINISTRY meets Tuesday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY meets Wednesday evening, 6:45, on Zoom. If you'd like to join our discussion, contact Pastor Hope

WORSHIP SUPPLY HANDOUT We have more worship elements to supply to you! Plan to stop by the church after worship time NEXT SUNDAY, November 1, sometime between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm to receive these blessings.

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**.

VISITING HOURS are moving inside this week. Pastor Hope will be downstairs in the Fellowship Hall with some well-distanced chairs and her mask to visit with you on Thursday afternoon, 2:30-3:30. Drop by and share your thoughts!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEKEND 10/31. We'll see you again Nov. 7.

ONGOING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY meets at ****1:45**** 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.

PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER 25, 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: Pastor Kathy Karch (10/25), Cheryl Runnfeldt (10/28)
The 15th anniversary of Pastor Hope's ordination is October 30

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

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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

God Answers Hannah

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

- ❖ Have you ever made a vow or deal to gain something in return? What was the result?
- ❖ When do you pray? What do your prayers include? Have your prayers ever been answered?
- ❖ Samuel's name has a very special meaning. Do you know what your name means?
- ❖ What other biblical songs can you think of? Which is your favorite?
- ❖ Hannah's prayer points out amazing reversals God enacts: "The strong become weak and the weak become strong." What other reversals in God's work can you describe?

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: Samuel's Calling 1 Samuel 3:1-20

- ❖ What do you think Eli was thinking after Samuel came to him for the third time?

Tuesday: Samuel as Judge 1 Samuel 7:3-17

- ❖ For what do you cry out to the Lord?

Wednesday: Israel Demands a King 1 Samuel 8:1-18

- ❖ What problems did the Israelites think would be solved by a king?

Thursday: Samuel Anoints Saul 1 Samuel 9:15-17, 27; 10:1

- ❖ Anointing is a special ritual of blessing. Have you ever been anointed? For what purpose? What does the ritual mean to you?

Friday: Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice 1 Samuel 13:1-14

- ❖ Why do you think Saul made the sacrifice, which was inappropriate for him to do?

Saturday: Saul Rejected As King 1 Samuel 15:10-31

- ❖ Why did Samuel not accept Saul's penance? Why does God seem to give some people more chances than others?