

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

Our Church at Worship on the Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 29, 2023

10:00 A.M.

*Our Mission: To be an inviting, caring faith community  
connecting with Christ.*



Rytas Brock Kaman

Welcome, visitors! Our greeters have welcome bags to share with you, so please make sure they know you're visiting.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozai

*Sharing of joys and concerns*

GATHERING SONG "Enough"

CHORUS: **All of You is more than enough for all of me  
For ev'ry thirst and ev'ry need  
You satisfy me with Your love  
And all I have in You is more than enough**

VERSE 1: **You're my supply my breath of life  
Still more awesome than I know  
You're my reward worth living for  
Still more awesome than I know**

CHORUS

VERSE 2: **You're my sacrifice of greatest price  
Still more awesome than I know  
You're my coming King You are ev'rything  
Still more awesome than I know**

CHORUS

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Kazimier

One: Within the whole family of God on earth,  
we gather as God's church in the name of Jesus Christ.

**All: We gather for worship, for fellowship, and for service;**

One: for mission, for witness, and for accountability

**All: We gather for encouragement and renewal in our lives as  
Christ's disciples.**

One: In the world, barriers divide the human family;

**All: God's gifts transcend all barriers.**

One: Christ is our one foundation,

**All: The unshakeable rock on which all life stands.**

One: Let us pray:

God of our hearts...here we are!

**All: We've come with thirsty hearts,  
praying that your Word will satisfy us.**

One: We come with aching hearts,  
praying for good news to comfort us.

**All: We come with overflowing hearts,  
praying for a chance to share your love.**

One: You, who know our hearts and hear our prayers,  
be with us now in this hour of worship.  
Amen.

ANTHEM

“I Woke Up This Mornin’ ”

Men's Chorus

### **WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

#### THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children and their parents are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church for the baby dedication. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.*

#### THE DEDICATION OF RYTAS BROCK KAMAN

Presented by his parents, Jonathan and Theresa Kaman

Greeting and Statement of Purpose

Words of Scripture Matthew 18:1-4

#### Litany of Covenant

Leader: God has entrusted you with a sacred responsibility.

Parents: We lovingly accept this responsibility.

**Congregation: We will help you.**

Leader: God has given you the gift of life.

Parents: We will protect and nurture this gift.

**Congregation: We will care for you.**

Leader: God's love is extravagant and unconditional.

Parents: We will love Rytas, whatever the future may bring.

**Congregation: We will be a community of love.**

Leader: God longs to be in relationship with us.

Parents: We will pray for Rytas, and teach him how to pray.

**Congregation: We will pray with you.**

Leader: God revealed himself to us through Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace.

Parents: We will follow the ways of Jesus.

**Congregation: We will be his disciples.**

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

Blessing

Prayer (we pray together)

**O God of everlasting covenant,  
We give you thanks for your child, Rytas.  
Travel with him on life's journey,  
so he may grow in wisdom and in years,  
in divine and human favor.  
Bind us in covenant to keep the vows we've made.  
Grant us grace to nurture and befriend this child,  
through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.  
Amen.**

Response of Praise (we sing)

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Psalm 42:1-5

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold the face of God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of  
God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping  
festival.  
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

### I Kings 19:1-18

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the  
prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying,  
"So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the  
life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up

and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram... So Elijah set out from there.

MESSAGE      Just an Ordinary, Amazing Life of Faith

### **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN            "Dear God, Embracing Humankind"            #502

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

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.**

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Faithful God,**

**We give in gratitude for your gifts.**

**May these offerings be the first steps**

**as we join you in your unifying work. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Be Now My Vision”

#451

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Eagles Wings”

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

Call to worship, adapted from Chalice Worship, #70; opening prayer, by Carol Penner, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship>. Litany of Covenant written by K. W. Pershey. Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

	<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	<b><u>November 5</u></b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Cheryl Kazimier	Ronnie Obara
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Greeter/Usher</b>	Dick Strahs	
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	The Kamans	The Tedders
<b>Sunday School</b>	George Z. & Lydia B.	Gail, Jean, Theresa (pageant practice)

**AT CHURCH THIS WEEK**

- Bible Study on Tuesday at 1pm (see below for details)
- Choir practices this Wednesday at 7pm
- Next Sunday: Clocks ‘fall back’  
All Saints Sunday observed  
Stewardship pledges due back for blessing

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**FOR LEARNING:** Bible Study meets on Zoom 1:00 until about 2:30 discussing the Bible story for the upcoming Sunday. All you need to bring is your Bible to read from – any version works! – and your curiosity. Join our Tuesday meeting by using Meeting ID 896 5130 1635 and Passcode 003204.

## **FOR SERVICE**

**GIFT CARD ORDERING:** Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive at [www.raiseright.com/brands](http://www.raiseright.com/brands) . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mrriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mrriapk@gmail.com) or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled “GIFT CARDS” in the upper hallway.

## **Gift Card App**

Your church leaders are very excited that we can now also support this fundraiser through the RaiseRight app with your smartphone. Gift cards for many places are available digitally for you to purchase and then use right away at the store you're shopping in or the restaurant you're eating at! Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly. Penny Kraft, Ronnie Obara, and Kathy Speaker are all very familiar with using the app and can help you get started if you're interested.

## **BUTTER BRAIDS ARE BACK!**

**What?** Delicious, bake-at-home pastries sold to benefit our Wider Missions ministry.

**How much do they cost?** \$16 each

**What flavors are available?** Apple, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Cream Cheese, Raspberry, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, Carmel Rolls, and Cinnamon Rolls.

**When do we order?** Ordering starts today through November 5<sup>th</sup>. Frozen Butter Braids will be delivered to the church on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>; you can pick them up between 5:00 and 6:00 that day.

These pastries come frozen so all you have to do is remove the Butter Braid from the package, thaw, rise and bake. They're perfect to have on hand for the holidays. Don't forget to tell friends and family we're selling them!

If you would like your own online order site for friends to easily place their orders with payments, let Karen Wootton know, and she will set it up.

**BLOOD DRIVE** is coming, Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-7:30. Please save the date for this life-saving event.

**FOR CONNECTION**

**FUNERAL SERVICE** for Yvonne Kemp will be this coming Friday morning, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9AM at Thompson Funeral Home on Wilmot Rd in Spring Grove with interment to follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. Visitation is Thursday from 4-8PM at the funeral home.

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY:** We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on November 6. All Saints is the day 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 that day, please share that person's name and their connection to you with the church office no later than Wednesday, Nov. 1.

**BUNCO – SAVE THE DATE:** Friday, November 17 with the dice rolling at 7PM. A sign-up sheet will be in the lounge soon.



## **Trivia Night Returns!**

Saturday, November 11, Doors open at 6PM,  
at the Richardson Adventure Farm Event Room

### **What is it?**

We and other people from the community form teams, and as teams, we answer 4 rounds of trivia questions, over the course of 2-3 hours. Points are awarded for correct answers and the winning team wins trophies, their name on the large trophy kept here at church, and endless glory. Teams are encouraged to bring their own snacks; beverages of many types are available for purchase.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW A LOT OF TRIVIA to enjoy Trivia Night! While Trivia is the main event, there are other fun games during the evening, as well as the eating, drinking, the silent auction, and general merriment!

### **How can you help?**

Spread the word!! The best way to get people to come to an event for the first time is to invite them.

Plan to come! There is no embarrassment at this event. Even teams that know very little trivia have a great time, and all our team answers for the questions are written down and turned in at the end of the round, so no one knows what you don't know.

Donate something for the silent auction. See below for details

### **How do we sign up?**

Registration forms are available in the lounge. If you have questions ask Dawn Conley, Kathy Speaker, or Pastor Hope.

### **Silent Auction**

Dawn Conley puts together baskets for the Trivia Night Silent Auction. If you plan to put together a basket as a donation, let her know. Also, if you want to donate a single item (new, not something you want to get rid of) or a gift card, Dawn will put a basket together with your item. You can call, text, or email her at 815-236-5982 or [conley8405@gmail.com](mailto:conley8405@gmail.com) with your idea or donation. Thank you!

Trivia Night has been one of our biggest fundraisers and the silent auction is a big part of that, so we encourage you to bring plenty of cash or your checkbooks, and a generous spirit!

**PRAYERS for the WEEK OF OCTOBER 29, 2023**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Kathy Smietana (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!

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

**JOYS:** Birthdays: Kelli Brossart (11/1)

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Melissa Jones

Charles Kemp

Jonathan Kaman's family

Injured high school football player, Augie

Bill Vezina

Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine

DeAnn Workmon's step-son, Robert

DeAnn Workmon

Kim May's friend, Jacquie

Rob Richardson's brother, Dale

Kathy Karch

Bill Haase's daughter, Barb

Carol Sligting's sister-in-law, Louise

Elise Livingston's co-worker, Kelsey

**Ongoing Prayers:**

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

**Our Congregational Prayer Partner** this week is Rob Rummel.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Immanuel UCC in Bartlett and their Interim Pastor, the Rev. Catherine Erwin.

**Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:** Betty Waspi

## **This I Know**

by Martha Spong, UCC pastor, clergy coach, and author

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

– 2 Timothy 3:14-15 (NRSV)

Mrs. Harrison is the first teacher I remember. I graduated from the Cradle Roll to the Nursery and then, when I turned 3, I left the baby toys behind and went across the hall to Sunday school, where we sat in little chairs at little tables and shared juice and crackers, and we learned from Mrs. Harrison. She had a gentle smile and a modest bouffant, and she sat at the tiny tables in those 1960s sheath dresses and high heels, with her lipstick on right, and she made sure I learned the song that taught the most important thing.

“Jesus loves me,” she sang, and I sang with her, and I believed he did. It must be true if Mrs. Harrison thought so.

Twenty-five years later I went back to visit and brought my 3-year-old son. When it was time for Sunday school, someone pointed us to the familiar room. My heart felt big enough to burst when I saw Mrs. Harrison standing there, as glad to see me as I was to see her. Her hair was grey, and not as high. Her lipstick was still on right. I left my son sitting on a little chair, looking up at her with a serious expression while she beamed back at him.

As I turned the corner at the end of the hall, I could hear them singing.

## **Prayer**

We give thanks, Holy God, for the people who first taught us about Jesus and gave us a sense of belonging, to the church and to you. Amen.

This devotional was created as a part of the StillSpeaking Daily Devotionals from the United Church of Christ. To get these daily devotions in your inbox, visit <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional>

## Dear God, Embracing Humankind

502

*John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.**Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12*

1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish  
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian  
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -  
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings  
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your

ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in  
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let  
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the  
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and  
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak

pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.  
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.  
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.  
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.  
 through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

*In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.*

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.  
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887  
 Alternate tune: REPTON  
 (repeating last phrase)

# Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
*Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*