

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
September 5, 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

GATHERING MUSIC

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG “Come to Me”

Kim May and Penny Kraft

By: Christopher Grundy

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Henry Molozaiy

One: God said, “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

All: But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord.”

One: Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

All: And I will give you rest.”

One: We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors,

All: Let us worship God this day!

One: Let us pray:

Worker God, whose hands built the earth,

molded our bodies, and sowed the stars across the sky,

we gather in your presence this morning

with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds.

Meet us here, Worker God;

strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you

in the building of a world filled with justice and peace. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

from Psalms 126 and 127

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 127:1-2

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

A STORY ABOUT STRIVING AND RESTING by Sandra Boynton

HYMN

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

#489

Scripture Reading The Gospel according to Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”

Scripture Reading Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 3:5-9

After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. We are God’s coworkers, and you are God’s field, God’s building.

Message “Holy Labor, Holy Rest”

HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy” #277, v. 1 only, Kim May

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (we pray together)

Merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will

and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer and 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.

Words of Remembering

Now as they were eating together, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink of it, all of you; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration – Place your hands over the bread and cup you have before you as we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to each table that's been prepared for you today. Bless each bite and each sip that we share in your name today. Bless each of us in our eating and drinking; wherever we are, let our eyes be opened, so that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, in our enemies, and in all for whom Christ lived and died. Amen.

We Share the Elements – Partake of what is before you as you share your table with Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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.

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**How can we say thanks, O God, for the one who laid down his life in witness to your love for all people?
We know that many people have not yet experienced that love. Use what we offer to bring healing and peace to others not of this community.
Draw us together as one flock in the care of the one shepherd, Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “We are One in the Spirit”

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

Tune and lyrics: Peter Scholtes, 1966.

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship from <http://www.facebook.com/cascadespresbytery>; Opening prayer from http://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_labor-sunday_worship-resources#liturgy;

NEW NEWS

BLOOD DRIVE

The blood drive will be coming September 21, 3:30-7:30

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is back. We will hold a zoom meeting each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Pastor Hope will provide the zoom meeting link

TRIVIA NIGHT

Hold the date of Saturday, November 13, for this year's Trivia Night fundraiser! More details will come as we get closer, but for now Dawn Conley invites you to help her get started on our auction baskets for that night. If you plan to put together a theme basket to donate, let Dawn know. If you want to contribute but don't know quite what to do, Dawn suggests you buy a gift card from Penny (which is also a FUNDRAISER!) in ANY denomination for ANY store or restaurant, and tell Penny it's for a Trivia Night donation. Penny will forward that gift card to Dawn, who will put together some type of basket with that card in mind. Thank you for anything you can do! Questions, contact Dawn at 815-236-5982 or conley8405@gmail.com .

WORSHIP LEADERS

As we re-group for indoor worship, Pastor Hope is updating her list of people who are interested in being readers during worship. Let her know if you'd like to be added to that list.

We also will be looking for people to do some things like lighting the candles, ringing the church bells, tidying up after worship. Just because you've never done these jobs before doesn't you mean can't start now!

We might even be looking for people to host (a very simple, outdoor-for-now) fellowship snack after future services, and for Sunday School teachers. Again, just because these 'weren't your thing' in early 2020 doesn't mean they can't become your thing as we enter a new stage.

Stay tuned and let Pastor Hope know of what ideas and interests you have for the church these days!

What to Expect at Indoor Worship this Week

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).
4. 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.
5. Let Kim and Penny do most of the singing. The congregation will sing a song after the sermon and the closing response.
6. Leave your offerings in the offering plates that will be at the front of the sanctuary and also near the bulletins.
7. Go outside after the closing response for fellowship and conversation. Please don't do your mingling inside.
8. 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.
9. 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 all 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 September 5, 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: Jim Speaker (Sept 6)

Our sympathy to Kathy Speaker's Relatives the Fletcher family on the passing of Cameron Fairchild

CONCERNS

Prayers For:

Elise Livingston's friend Patti's infant granddaughter

Brandi's Father in Law, Dana Pletcher

Pastor Hope's friend, Betsy Tesch

Mercedes Algrim (New Mexico)

Students, teachers, school staff, and all those affected by back to school changes

Deann Workmon

The people of Haiti

The people of Afghatistan

Bob Krueger

Betty Waspi

Kathy Speaker's aunt, Elaine Fletcher

Ina Obara's father

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), June Whitney (at home), Bob Krueger

PRAYERS and CARDS

Several of our friends and members could use prayers and cards:

Betty Waspi, Room 30

Lake Geneva Golden Years

611 Harmony Dr, Lake Geneva WI 53147

Direct phone number 262-203-9092

Bob Krueger Ignite Medical Resort 550 Ridgeview Dr, McHenry IL 60050

Mercedes Ahlgrim 186-C Arroyo Hondo Rd Santa Fe NM 87508