

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2023

10:00 A.M.

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

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaïy

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG “Come to Me”

Verse 1: **All who are weary, all who are burdened down
Come to me, come to me, come to me
And I will give you rest** (*repeat*)

Verse 2: **My yoke is easy, my burden feels so light
Come to me, come to me, come to me
And I will give you rest** (*repeat*)

Repeat first verse once

Tag: **Come to me, come to me, come to me.
And I will give you rest**

Words and Music by: Christopher Grundy, CCLI 1908882

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Kennedy

One: From the rising of the sun ‘til its setting in the west,

All: God’s holy name be praised.

One: On the lips of children, by newborn babes,

All: God’s holy name be praised.

One: In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,

All: God’s holy name be praised.

One: In the banquet hall of heaven and the forgotten corners of
our hearts,

All: God’s holy name be praised.

One: Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord!

All: Amen! Let us praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

One: Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm our troubled sea;

Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith;

Ever-present God, who fills us with awe

but also raises many questions without easy answers;

**All: Open our eyes to see you in our boat—today,
Strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead,
Open our ears this hour to hear the word you speak.
This we pray, In Jesus' name. Amen**

HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

#439

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE CHANCEL STEPS

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.

SONG RESPONSE “God is So Good”

**God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, He's so good to me!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

First Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49

This reading is found beginning on page 254 in the blue pew Bibles and page 323 of the red ones. Turn there if you'd like to follow along.

Summary: King Saul's army is under repeated attacks from the Philistines who have a champion among them named Goliath. Saul's army is greatly afraid of facing him. David comes from sheep fields to check on his brothers, who are with Saul's army. He volunteers himself

to conquer Goliath. David faces Goliath without army, but just five smooth stones from the river, his sling shot, and his trust in God.

MESSAGE Bodies of Faith: When Our Lives Exceed Our Bodies

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

“We Who Would Valiant Be”

#494

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)

O God, use these offerings of money, time, and talents to enliven your church, to encourage a world prone to discouragement, to enable a spreading of Christ’s love. May all our gifts and our giving be delightful in your sight. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SONG

“To Be Loved This Way”

Verse 1:

**If it’s true, You love me as I am,
and not as I think I should be.
Then I’m free to face the parts of me,
I’m tempted to deny.**

Chorus 1:

**God, You know all my laughter
and all of my tears;
You know where I’ve been and
You know why I’m here.
And You know it heals my deepest wounds,
to be loved this way**

(song continues on next page)

Verse 2: **If it's true, You love us as we are
and not as we think we should be.
Then we're free to trust the Mystery
and Love beyond all fear.**

Chorus 2: **God You know all our laughter
and all of our tears;
You know where we've been
and You know why we're here.
And You know it heals our deepest wounds,
to be loved this way (repeat)**

Words and Music: Bryan Sirchio @2007 Crosswind Music

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "When the Lord's in You"

**When the Lord's in you, and the Lord's in me,
there's a bridge between our spirits,
wherever we may be.
'Til we meet again
let us hold the Mystery of the Lord in you and me.**

Bryan Sirchio Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI

Call, from Wee Worship Book 4th Incarnation, Wild Goose Resource Group.
Opening prayer, Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website.
<http://rockhay.tripod.com>; Dedication, Chalice Worship #522
Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>September 24</u>
Liturgist	Mike Kennedy	Nicki Carter
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	Nicki Carter	
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher	Gail Crutcher

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Corn Maze Outing TODAY at Richardson's Farm (see details below)
- Choir practices this Wednesday at 7pm
- Presentation of Bibles next Sunday

CHURCH NEWS

FOR CONNECTION

CORN MAZE OUTING: TODAY, Sept. 17th, starting at 3pm, at Richardson's Adventure Farm with time for bonfire fellowship, hot dog dinner, and enjoying all the activities that the Farm has to offer. Bring a picnic food to share as we eat together around 4pm. Bring a \$10 donation for the church in place of the entrance fee. This event is intended for continued fellowship time for our church family.

BUNCO!: Come join us on September 29 from 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall. Bunco is an easy, fast paced dice game that everyone will love! (Not just the ladies!!) \$15/person will raise money for the church and provide multiple winners with a cash payout! Bring a snack or appetizer to share, and lots of luck!
Please RSVP to Dawn Conley 815-236-5982

TRIVIA NIGHT: Start gathering your teams for this annual night of fun! Saturday, November 11, at the Richardson Farm Event Room. First question is at 7:00. Registration forms will be out soon!

FOR SERVICE

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ meets for our annual gathering on November 3 & 4, Friday & Saturday, at Yorkville Congregational UCC. Friday's schedule features a great array of workshops about being the church in these times and also the annual celebration banquet dinner. On Saturday, there's a keynote presentation from The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, the newly elected General Minister and President of the UCC, the business meeting of the conference, and closing worship led by our Illinois Conference Minister, the Rev. Molly Carlson. Can you attend one of these days to help our congregation connect with the wider church? More information is in the lounge and available through Pastor Hope.

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Christmas is coming...how about getting a head start by purchasing some gift cards from the church? Here are gift cards that are in stock and available for purchase:

- 2 - \$10 Dunkin Donuts
- 4 - \$10 Dominos
- 3 - \$10 Burger King
- 1 - \$25 Buffalo Wild Wings
- 4 - \$25 Chilis
- 2- \$50 Walmart
- 1 - \$100 Walmart
- 2 - \$50 Applebees

Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com to snag some of these gift cards that are already on hand.

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.

HOST FELLOWSHIP SNACKS: A simple snack is all that's needed, and coffee-making tutorials are available. The sign-up sheet is available in the lounge.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 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: Jan Revelle (9/18)

PRAYERS FOR:

Yvonne Kemp

Cheryl Kazimier's mother, Kay Prendergast

Morocco Earthquake Victims

Hurricane Victims

Nicki Carter's coworker, SunnyLynn

George Zimmermann

Nicki's friend in car accident then hospital

Ongoing Prayers:

Betty Waspi

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are George Zimmermann and Elise Livingston.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. Michael's U.C.C. in West Chicago, IL and their Pastor, Rev. Sue Ebersold.

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

Illinois Conference United Church of Christ Annual Celebration

Yorkville Congregational Church
November 3 - November 4, 2023



Repentance, Rekindling, Renewal

**Back In
Person!**

Celebration Banquet

Friday at 6:00 PM

Chalice Awards, 5 for 5,
Mission, Outdoor Ministries,
Churches, Pastors & More!



Keynote, Saturday at 8:30 AM

**The Rev. Dr. Karen
Georgia Thompson**
*Incoming General
Minister & President*

**Meet
the new
GMP!**

\$95

Worship, Saturday at 2:00 PM

Preacher:
The Rev. Molly Carlson
*Conference Minister,
Illinois Conference UCC*



SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE!

<https://tinyurl.com/2023AnnualCelebration>



A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
 4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;

Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.

For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
 save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.
 For another version, see 440

We Who Would Valiant Be

John Bunyan, 1684; alt.

1 We who would val - iant be: let us not wa - ver,
2 Those who may us sur-round with dis - mal sto - ries,
3 Since, Sav - ior, you de - fend us with your Spir - it,

but in true con - stan - cy fol - low the Sav - ior.
on - ly them - selves con-found; our strength the more is.
we know we at the end shall life in - her - it.

There's no dis - cour - age-ment shall make us once re - lent
No foes shall give us fright, ours is the one true Light;
Cruel ru - mors, flee a - way! We'll fear not what they say;

our first a - vowed in - tent to live as pil - grims.
we will make good our right to live as pil - grims.
we'll la - bor night and day to live as pil - grims.

The English author John Bunyan became an influential Congregational and Baptist preacher, for which he was imprisoned for many years. Part One of his Pilgrim's Progress was written in prison. Lines from Pilgrim's Progress, Part Two, have been recast as this hymn.

Tune: ST. DUNSTAN'S 6.5.6.5.6.6.6.5.
C. Winfred Douglas, 1917