

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 3, 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

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

Rob Richardson

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord! Call on God’s name,
and tell of God’s deeds among the people.

**People: Sing to the Holy One, sing praises to our God!
Remember and tell of God’s wonderful works.**

Leader: We will remember all the gifts God has given us.

People: We will remember all the times God has comforted us,

Leader: and the ways God has challenged us to grow,

People: and the times God’s love has overflowed in us.

Leader: We will remember all that God has done for us,

People: and tell of God’s wonderful works among the people.

OPENING PRAYER

Rob Richardson

**As on a first day you began the work of creating us,
as on a first day you raised your Son from the dead,
so on this first day, good Lord, freshen and remake us;
and as the week is new, let our lives begin again
because of Jesus who shows us your loving power. Amen.**

HYMN

“God is Truly with Us”

#68

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 can remain with their families for worship.

SONG RESPONSE “Wherever Love Is”

**Wherever love is, God is there too
God is in me, ‘cause I love you
Wherever love is, God is there too
God is wherever love is.**

Copyright Crosswind Music

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**O God, all good gifts around us come from you.
As you’ve filled our lives with gifts,
now we offer our gifts back,
so that in all things, we might be gifts
to each other and to the world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139: 1-14a

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

O where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

The Letter to the Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Gospel according to Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

MESSAGE God All Around Us: Telling What We've Seen

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN "O Grant Us, God, a Little Space" #516

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

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

Prayer of Consecration

We Share the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus.
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.
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN

“God Reigns o’er All the World”

#21

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Amen”

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

Opening Prayer from Chalice Worship #157. Prayer of Dedication from UCC Book of
Worship, p. 551
Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>September 10</u>
Liturgist	Rob Richardson	Jean Valsa
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	Lydia Blanton	Nicki Carter
Communion Prep	Elise Livingston	

CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- MEN'S BREAKFAST on Saturday, September 9th. Breakfast is at 8am and men will meet at the church at 9am.
- CHOIR PRACTICE begins on September 6th and the choir will sing on September 10th.
- WIDER MISSION MEETING on Tuesday, September 5th, 1:30pm at the church.

FOR LEARNING

Bible Study this fall: This Tuesday, Sept 5, at 1:00, we'll meet on Zoom to catch up from the summer and look ahead at the Bible stories for this fall. Everyone is welcome to Zoom in! Regular, weekly Bible study discussions will start on Tuesday, Sept 26, at 1:00 on Zoom. We'll be hearing some rarely heard Bible stories this fall and have some special guest teachers for our gatherings; it might be the perfect time for you to join this group of Bible scholars!

FOR SERVICE

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.

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at www.raiseright.com/brands . If you give Penny a gift card order on Sunday, your cards are usually here by midweek. Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

FOR CONNECTION

POTLUCK & ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON RALLY DAY, SEPT. 10

We had a great summer and the **kids had fun** in Summer Sunday School so to mark the end of summer and the beginning of our new **Sunday School Season** we are kicking it off with a **RALLY DAY lunch!** There will be **PRIZES for the Summer Bingo Game, Ice Cream** with all the toppings and a potluck lunch and conversation and fellowship.

Bring your favorite dish to share! The ice cream will be provided. Sign up sheet is in the lounge.

WIDER CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES

- Fox Valley Association Meeting, September 9, Saturday, 8:30am to 2:00 pm, in-person at Little Home Church by the Wayside UCC in Wayne, IL. Our church can send two voting delegates in addition to Pastor Hope.
- IL Conference UCC Women's Retreat, September 29-30, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center near Princeton, IL. Pastor Hope has loved attending for many years now and would love to have others from church join her.
- IL Conference UCC Annual Gathering, November 3-4, Friday & Saturday, Yorkville Congregational UCC featuring The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, newly elected General Minister and President of the UCC.

Talk to Pastor Hope if you're interested in any of these events.

CATCH UP with Pastor Hope!
Drop by during this week's visiting hour,
9-10AM on Thursday, September 7th.
Outside the office entrance to the church (weather permitting).



PRAYERS for the WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 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: Libby Valsa (9/4); James Speaker (9/6);
Bill Vezina (9/9).

Thanks for Pastor Ruth and for George & Elise's new puppy

PRAYERS FOR:

Ruth Kaman getting tonsillectomy
Nicki's friend in car accident then hospital
Henry Eickelberg
Cheryl Heber's friends' mother's death
Barb Howe's nephew
Lydia Blanton's father in law
John Kaman's family (Uncle's passing)

Ongoing Prayers:

Betty Waspi
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Shirley Klein.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John's U.C.C. in Waukegan and their Pastor, the Rev. Selena Blackwell.

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

Matt. 1:23; 2 Cor. 9:8; Rev. 4:8-11

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729

Transl. Frederick W. Foster and others; alt.

1 God is tru-ly with us; sing we and a - dore now: praise the One we
 2 God is tru-ly with us; loud our praise re - sound - ing! Ech - oes of the
 3 Source of ev-ery bless - ing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and

come be - fore now. Here with - in this tem - ple, here in sound and
 saints sur - round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," hear the hymn as -
 deeds pro - claim you. Like the saints and an - gels prais - ing you in

si - lence, wor - ship God in deep - est rev - erence. You a - lone,
 cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es blend - ing! Bow your ear
 glo - ry, may your ser - vants sing your sto - ry. And in all,

God, we own, you, our God and Sav - ior; praise to you for - ev - er.
 to us here; hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
 great and small, may we do most near - ly what you love most dear - ly.

Gerhard Tersteegen, an important German hymnwriter of the Reformed Church, began preaching at prayer meetings and gained a considerable following. He devoted his life to praying, preaching, visiting the poor, and writing and translating devotional material.

Tune: WUNDERBARER KÖNIG 6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6.
 Joachim Neander, in A und Ω,
 Glaubund Liebestübung, Bremen, 1680

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

516

John Ellerton, 1870; alt.



- 1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
- 2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
- 3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;
- 4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
- 5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.



John Ellerton's hymn, written for a noonday service in a city church, is one of the earliest to speak of science and art as part of God's creation. Thomas Este was a famous English printer and music publisher.

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD C.M.
Este's Whole Book of Psalms, 1592

God Reigns o'er All the Earth - 1

21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings.

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
 Traditional English melody