

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 18, 2024 10:00 A.M.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Hope Molozaizy

GATHERING SONG "My Life is in You, Lord"

Chorus

**My life is in You, Lord;
My strength is in You, Lord;
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.
My life is in You, Lord,
My strength is in You, Lord;
My hope is in You Lord, in You, it's in You.**

Verse

**I will praise You with all of my life;
I will praise You with all of my strength.
With all of my life, with all of my strength,
All of my hope is in You.**

Repeat Chorus

Tag **It's in You, it's in You. In You.**

Words and Music by Daniel Gardner © 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

CALL TO WORSHIP Mike Kennedy

One: Morning has broken.

Let us give thanks for the gift of life
and for the presence of the Holy One among us.
Let us worship God together.

All: Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER

*When the worship leader indicates, you respond: **We bless you.***

HYMN

“This is My Father’s World”

**This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!**

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

WORD FOR ALL AGES with Psalm 139

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND BAGS

SONG RESPONSE “The Whole World”

**The whole world is in God’s hands (repeat 3 times)
The world is in God’s hands.**

**The earth and the sky are in God’s hands
The night and the day are in God’s hands
The sun and the moon are in God’s hands
The whole world is in God’s hands**

**You and me brother are in God's hands
You and me sister are in God's hands
The itty bitty baby is in God's hands
The whole world is in God's hands**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Some Glimpses of God's Extravagant Welcome from throughout the Bible

HYMN "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories ever echoing,
the triumphs of God's grace!**

**My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.**

**Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.**

**Glory to God, and praise and love
be ever, ever given
by all the saints in every age,
the Church in earth and heaven.**

SCRIPTURE READING

The Story of Genesis 18:1-8 Strangers come to Abram's tent

MESSAGE We are People of God's Extravagant Welcome

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

SONG "Leaning In"

a sung prayer of intention by Christopher Grundy

1. We pray for the lonely ones, knowing that some of us are lonely
And we pray for the heartbroken ones, knowing that some of us are heartbroken.

**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world.**

2. We pray for the wounded ones, knowing that some of us are wounded

And we pray for the regretful ones, knowing that some of us are regretful.

**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of healing in the world.**

3. We pray for the starving ones, knowing that some of us are starving
And we pray for the imprisoned ones, knowing that some of us are imprisoned.

**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of justice in the world.**

4. We pray for the dying ones knowing that some of us are dying
And we pray for the newly born ones knowing that some of us are arriving.

**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world.**

Amen.

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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

HYMN "What a Covenant"

- vs. 1** What a covenant, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms,
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
- vs. 2** Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
- vs. 3** What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

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)

Opening prayer, Wee Worship, p. 68; Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

August 25

Liturgist

Mike Kennedy

Cheryl Heber

Fellowship Hosts

Penny Kraft

The Kamans

Sunday School

N/A

Cheryl Heber

Today at 1:30pm!

Pool & Dessert Party at George & Elise's home

Bring your swimming suit and a dessert to share to 9905 Falcon Dr, Richmond (just off of Hill Rd) as we wrap-up the summer with a pool party. Questions? Reach Elise at 815-347-2807.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED IN SO MANY WAYS TO ANOTHER OUTSTANDING BEEF ROAST!!

Great big thanks to Jim and Kathy Speaker who do the majority of the planning, ordering, and organizing, and who continue to donate the beef in Doris Speaker's memory, and who makes all the pickles (Jim).

Thanks to Robert Richardson who's up in the middle of the night to get the beef roasting and to the Richardsons for use of the tent and the outdoor floor.

Thanks to EVERYONE who helped set-up, mow, trim, shuck, wrap, carve, slice, package, serve, welcome, tidy, take payments, deliver, clean up, take out trash;

to everyone who put up yard signs, handed out flyers, shared the Facebook event, told a neighbor or a stranger;

to everyone who came by to eat or who prayed for good weather...

However you helped, we are THANKFUL!

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY OPPORTUNITY!

Fanning a flame makes it brighter, stronger and hotter. Fellowship and Bible study are ways we can fan the flame of our faith.

Join Katie Anderson-Tedder for four cozy Tuesdays of fellowship and bible study beginning Sept. 3.

Each week the group will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. and meet for about an hour around a "fire." We'll spend time examining the many ways the concept of fire is used in the Bible and talk about how these ideas manifest in our lives. Join us for all four sessions or just the ones you can make. All are welcome.

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 . 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 upper hallway.

You can also make use of the RaiseRight app for your smartphone for digital gift cards. Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly. Penny Kraft can help you get started if you're interested.

BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!

We are thankful for another successful blood drive this past Tuesday. We collected 21 pints of blood at our blood drive. Our goal was 27, but 21 pints is more in line with what we usually collect. It was a good blood drive! A special thanks to DeAnn for making all the phone calls, and to her daughter, Hallie Guilfyle, who sat at the treat table with us to interact with the donors. Dick Strahs, as always, gave blood and closed up the church after the drive. Thank you to everyone who came to give blood! You saved many lives!

COMING UP NEXT...

'Tis the season for much planning for the coming seasons!

If you are someone who normally helps set dates for our events – fellowship, BUNCO, missions, fundraisers – Pastor Hope asks you to gather with your team, look at your calendars, and get those plans rolling, so we can have an outstanding remainder of 2024!

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18, 2024

JOYS: Birthdays: Dick Strahs and Nicholas Heber (8/18); Sam Jones (8/20); Pastor Hope (8/20).

Happy 45th Anniversary to George Zimmermann and Elise Livingston!

We celebrate with Kim May at the news of Kyle's full-time teaching position!

OUR SYMPATHIES to Barb Howe and family at the passing of her brother-in-law, Earl Howe.

PRAYERS FOR:

Evelyn Heber and all new college students

Penny and Jim Kraft's friend, Brian

Mike Anderson

Community connections: Mary Winkle, Debra Boro, and Bradley Shaw

George and Elise's neighbor, Makayla

All teachers, staff, students, and parents as new school years begin

Nicki Carter's friend, Annie Stolger

Betty Waspi's son-in-law, Wayne Japp

Theresa Kaman's friend's infant, Charlotte

Robert Richardson

Ongoing Prayers:

Rev. Ruth Costello

Louise Strah's niece, Amy

Mike Karch

Lenik

Bill Haase

Melissa Jones

Henry Eickelberg

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Ronnie and Ina Obara.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Downer's Grove and their Senior Minister, the Rev. Scott Oberle, and their Transitional Pastor, the Rev. Michelle McNamara.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi