

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 25, 2024 10:00 A.M.



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

Welcome, visitors!

Join us after worship for coffee and conversation in the lounge, the room right next to the sanctuary.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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 and OPENING PRAYER George Zimmermann

One: Come and worship,
everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

One: For listening when we call,
answering our prayers,
forgiving our mistakes,
and providing what we need:

All: let's praise God together!

One: Come and worship,
everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

One: Let us pray: O God, we gather in your presence with expectation, eager to hear your word.

All: Open our eyes and ears to the presence of your Holy Spirit.

One: May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us fall on fertile soil in our lives.

All: May they take root in our hearts, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.

One: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord.

All: Amen.

HYMN

“Beautiful Jesus”

#44

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

WORD FOR ALL AGES

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

SONG RESPONSE “Good Soil”

(see insert)

(after singing, please leave your copy on the pew so we can reuse it)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Letter of James 5:7-8

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 9:6-10

(The Common English Bible)

What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. As it is written, *He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.*

The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness.

MESSAGE Planting Seeds of Renewal: Investing in Fertilizer
Featuring Katie Anderson-Tedder, Jonathan Kaman and Jim Valsa

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

HYMN “Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed” #537

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

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)

**As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment,
may we become imitators of you, Gracious God,
who holds nothing back from us,
but is generous and gracious with all that is yours.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN "O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder" #35

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Eagle's 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 and opening prayer by Christine Longhurst on re:worship; Dedication, Thom Schuman at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca>. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

September 1

Liturgist	George Zimmermann	Kathy Speaker
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	The Kamans	NEEDED
Sunday School	Cheryl Heber	n/a

CHURCH NEWS

Worship & Spiritual Growth Meeting, Today, 11:15

FOR CONNECTION

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.

THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE WOMEN'S RETREAT is October 4th and 5th at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center in Princeton, IL. Pastor Hope will attend and has attended many years in the past as well as several other church members. This year we'll explore the theme of **Enough** as mentioned in the Bible and how it affects our lives – Enough already! Am I Enough? What is Enough? and much more. There will be Enough time to unwind, study the Bible in experiential ways, get to know one another, work on a service project, take a walk around the beautiful grounds of Pilgrim Park, and even take a nap.

If you're curious about attending, talk to Pastor Hope. It is also possible to attend on Saturday only if that works better for your schedule. Pilgrim Park is about 2.25 hours from Richmond. Financial assistance is available.

FOR SERVICE

A NEW YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL begins September 8th! We're excited to grow with the children of the church through this new year, which will include a new middle school Sunday school class! We ask for members of the church to take turns teaching our younger children, generally asking one person, or pair, to take one month of teaching. That's usually 3-4 weeks at a time. We provide a well-scripted and easy to follow curriculum. If you might be interested in trying your hand at teaching our lovely church kids, talk to Jean Valsa or Pastor Hope or sign up on the clipboard in the lounge.

DO YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL SUMMER FLOWERS? Please consider sharing them with the congregation. Let Jonathan Kaman know when you would like to bring them in to put on the altar.

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!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for supporting me throughout the years!
Also, thank you so much for the opportunities to give
back to the church by being able to help out. You guys
mean so much to me and are like my second family!

Thank you!

Evelyn Heber

FROM A MISSION PARTNER

Dear Pastor Molozaiy,

*Seniors living in Richmond really depend on God, their church family and in our case, the **Richmond-Burton Senior Transportation Program**. We want you to know how much we appreciate your church's help in our mission to serve the seniors in our community.*

We received a \$35 donation from you in December of 2023 and a \$100 donation from you in January of 2024. Just so you know, we will apply the donations to help defray the costs of our program. Your gifts are more than dollars. They are evidence of your care for a very vulnerable population that deserves our respect and support.

Thank you again for the gifts you have given us.

*Yours truly,
Paul R. Hain, Ed. D.
Supervisor/Treasurer*

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF August 25, 2024

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: Ryder Blanton (8/25)

Thanks for Will Kazimier's upcoming move back to the area.
Thanks for the saints that have gone before us, specifically Doris Speaker and Yvonne Kemp.

PRAYERS FOR:

Penny and Jim Kraft's friend, Brian
Mike Anderson
George and Elise's neighbor, Makayla
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 Partner this week is Jan Revelle.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. Paul's U.C.C. in Downer's Grove as they search for their next pastor.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

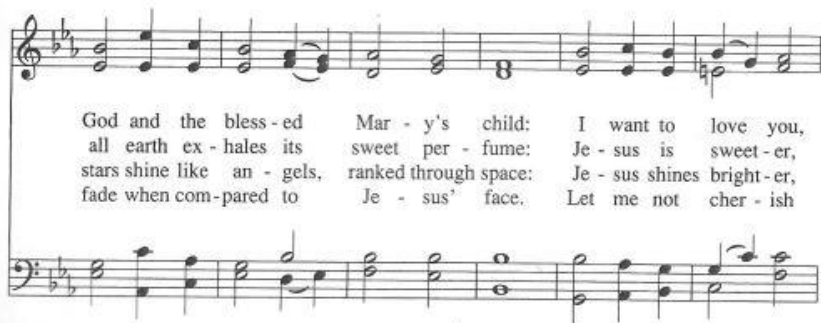
Beautiful Jesus

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

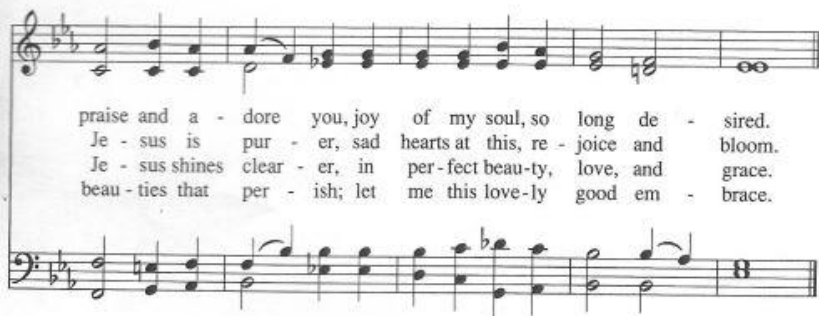
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Beau - ti - ful Je - sus, Head of all cre - a - tion,
 2 Beau - ti - ful spring - time, love - ly, green, and hope - ful,
 3 Beau - ti - ful sun - shine, clear, so love - ly, moon - light,
 4 All earth - ly beau - ty, all ce - les - tial ra - diance



God and the bless - ed Mar - y's child: I want to love you,
 all earth ex - hales its sweet per - fume: Je - sus is sweet - er,
 stars shine like an - gels, ranked through space: Je - sus shines bright - er,
 fade when com - pared to Je - sus' face. Let me not cher - ish



praise and a - dore you, joy of my soul, so long de - sired.
 Je - sus is pur - er, sad hearts at this, re - jice and bloom.
 Je - sus shines clear - er, in per - fect beau - ty, love, and grace.
 beau - ties that per - ish; let me this love - ly good em - brace.

This text, which has also been translated as "Fairest Lord Jesus" and "Beautiful Savior," was included in a German Catholic hymnal published in Münster. The melody, known by various names, is thought to be a Silesian folk tune.

Tune: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU 5.6.8.5.5.8.
 Silesian folk melody
 Harm. Richard S. Willis, 1850

*SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Good Soil

Mary Alice Suter



o - pen to the seed of your Word.



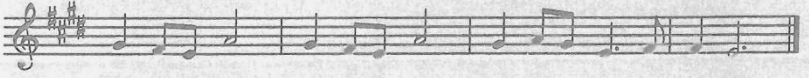
where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.



When my heart is cold,



When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

537

Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
 3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - left of

true, raise your work and life a - new.
 light, strength - en them to do the right.
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
 fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
 The Parish Choir, 1850

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

Carl Boberg, 1885

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

1 O might-y God, when I sur-vey in won - der the world that
 2 When your voice speaks in rolls of thun-der peal - ing, your light-ning
 3 The Bi - ble tells the sto - ry of your bless - ing so free - ly
 4 And when, at last, the clouds of doubt dis - pers - ing, you will re -

formed when once the word you said, The strands of life all wo-ven close to -
 pow - er bursts in bright sur - prise; When cool - ing rain, your gen-tle love re -
 shed up - on all hu - man life; Your con - stant mer - cy, ev - ery care ad -
 veal what we but dim - ly see; With trum - pet call, our great re - birth an -

Refrain

geth - er, the whole cre - a - tion at your ta - ble fed,
 veal - ing, re - flects your prom - ise, arc - ing through the skies, (1-3) My soul cries
 dress - ing, re - liev - ing bur - dened souls from sin and strife.
 nounc - ing, we shall re - join you for e - ter - ni - ty, (4) Then we will

out in songs of praise to you, O might-y God! O might-y God! My soul cries
 sing your praise for - ev - er more, O might-y God! O might-y God! Then we will