

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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.

This morning our children will head straight upstairs to the sanctuary where they will spend the morning rehearsing for next Sunday's Christmas pageant. All children are welcome to take part.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG "Waiting for You"

**We are waiting for You
knowing that You always abide.
We are waking to Your presence
and our hearts are open wide,
open wide.**

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy Copyright 2004
Administrator: Local Church Ministries, UCC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kathy Karch

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – How does a weary world practice peace?

OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God,
We know that you are near.
You are standing at the door,
you are running down the driveway,
you are inviting us in—

**All: into your Word,
into relationship,
and into deeper joy.**

One: So as we approach your Word, we pray:
do not let us pass you by.

**All: Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us.
Do not let us walk down this road without you.**

One: Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way.

**All: Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom,
to let it sink into our bones and change us.
With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.**

HYMN

“O How Shall I Receive You”

#102

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer

One: God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**All: We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

One: Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

**All: We lean into fear.
We lean into isolation.**

One: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**All: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like
Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection.
Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

Sharing the Peace of Christ is a ritual as old as the New Testament. It is a time to recall that we are called to be one in the Body of Christ, rather than a time to greet friends. Traditionally, one will say "The peace of Christ be with you." The customary response is "And also with you."

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From Psalm 85, adapted by HEA Molozaiy

One: We come to worship God who has looked with blessing on God's people.

All: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

One: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear God and God's glory will dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss.

All: The Lord will give what is good and we will reap God's peace.

The Gospel according to Luke 1:24-45 (selected verses)

"Soon afterward Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months.... In the sixth month, Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."

MESSAGE How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
Elizabeth Gets Reconnected

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

HYMN "We Hail You, God's Anointed"

#104

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit,
who comes to us in ways both mysterious and ordinary,
Bless these gifts of peace, joy, and gratitude.
For all that your love has already done, thank you.
For all you will yet do, through these gifts and by your
Spirit, we praise you. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Dedication from 2020 Offering Guide from The Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ. All other printed liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

December 15

Liturgist

Rev. Kathy Karch

Nicki Carter

Video Director

Nicki Carter

Usher

Dick Strahs

Greeter

Elise L. & George Z. Ron Obara

Fellowship Hosts

Pastor Kathy & Mike Ode & Mary Ann

Sunday School

Gail C & Jean V Pageant

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Poinsettia Orders due TODAY
- Cabinet Meets Monday at 6:30PM on Zoom
- Blood Drive on Tuesday from 3:30-7:30PM
- Choir Practice Wednesday, 7PM
- Christmas Pageant Next Sunday
- Christmas Family gifts due by Next Sunday, Dec. 15

CHURCH NEWS

ADVENT RESOURCES

Advent devotionals and Advent calendars for adults and children are in the lounge. Please take one home today!

Would you like your own Advent wreath at home? Let Pastor Hope know and we can supply you with the items, including either electric or wax candles to light throughout the season.

FOR SERVICE:
BLOOD DRIVE

There is a Blood Drive here this Tuesday, December 10 from 3:30-7:30PM. Helpful tips: Eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating. PHOTO ID REQUIRED

Your lifesaving impact will benefit a number of local families, bringing added joy to our communities this holiday season! Your contribution will make a difference to so many!

HOLIDAY GIFT CARD ORDER

The final gift card order for 2024 will be placed on December 16th so cards can be distributed before Christmas and money can be collected so that those payments are posted to our account before the end of the year!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are now available to order. Please complete an order form and return it with payment to the basket in the sanctuary. Order forms are due **TODAY**, December 8.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are needed for coming weeks. Sign up in the lounge.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers on a particular Sunday in honor of a birthday, anniversary or other special day, please talk to Jonathan Kaman, 815-347-5035. Jonathan can order something from the florist or you can provide your own arrangement.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY:

Help us bring joy to a community family as Wider Missions Ministry works with the Richmond-Spring Grove Community Food Pantry. This year our family consists of Mom, Dad, and 5 children: Girl (age 4), Boy (10), Boy (11), Girl (16), and Boy (18). We've been given a list of items we could gift them for Christmas. You can find the list at <https://signup.com/go/Xhmtptb>

You don't need to create an account to signup but you will need to enter an email address. (SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, contact Karen Wootton at and she can get you signed up manually.) Scroll down to find the "fun" gifts but remember that it is a great time to help out our neighbors with new clothes as listed on the sign up as well. If there is a * in front of a gift, please see the notes. Remember also that you could purchase a gift card through Penny Kraft to gift to the family for their own purchasing of clothing items. That's an especially great idea for items like shoes, boots, and socks and underwear.

All items need to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 15. They should be wrapped, without bows, with a gift receipt and a tag labelled for Family X and with the following information: Gift # (from the sign up), Name and age of family member (Mom; Girl, 4; Boy 18, etc.). If you buy gift cards, put them in an envelope with the same information. Put all gift receipts and gift cards in the box in the Lounge labelled "Mom." If you put multiple gifts in one box, put all the gift numbers on the tag. Any other questions, just ask Karen! 815- 271-0056.



Family: X

Gift # 11

*(If you are putting multiple gifts in one box,
please put all gift # on tag.)*

Name: Age *(listed below)*

*Mom, Dad, Girl: 4, Boy: 10, Boy: 11,
Girl: 16 and Boy: 18*

FOR CONNECTION

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

In gratitude, we share that currently we have received 33 pledges for a current total of \$115,480 pledged to the church for 2025. This is an increase over what was pledged for 2024, brought about by many people making small updates to their giving. We are thankful to everyone who is able to pledge in any amount. If you would like to offer your pledge for 2025 before the end of the year, there are blank pledge cards on the table in the back of the room, or contact Financial Secretary Judy Jooss at jdjooss@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date of Sunday, January 19, 2025, for the next annual meeting of The Community Church. Our meeting will overlap with worship time as we pass a budget for the coming year, elect new officers, and dream together about what might be in store for us next.

CHOIR SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 22, we will have a Choir Celebration Sunday. The Choir will perform several special pieces that they have been preparing. We look forward to hearing their beautiful voices!

CHRISTMAS EVE

On Tuesday, December 24, we will have a traditional candlelight service at 8pm. We hope that you will join us to celebrate our Lord's birth that evening.

PAJAMA SUNDAY WITH MEN'S CHORUS

What could start the new year better than men singing in their pajamas? Get ready to cozy up with a Christmas story and maybe a cookie or two. Our traditional PJ Sunday is on December 29 this year, so don't miss it!

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF December 8, 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: DeAnn Workmon (12/10).

We are thankful for the blessings of gathering with family and the blessings of a bountiful feast.

PRAYERS FOR:

Bill Haase

Katie Anderson Tedder's friends, the Faz family

Nicki Carter

Jonathan Kaman's sister and expected baby

Carol Sligting's daughter and family

Jim Speaker

Bob Jooss

Sheryl Vezina

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Robert Richardson

Rev. Ruth Costello

Mike Karch

Bill Haase

Henry Eickelberg

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Aiden Zimmermann.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John U.C.C. in Naperville and their Pastor, the Rev. Matt Mimplitz.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

O How Shall I Receive You

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;
 3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615

We Hail You God's Anointed

104

*James Montgomery, 1821; alt.**Ps. 72*

1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
 2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
 from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed;

You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
 The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
 your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.

Written as a Christmas hymn for the Moravian settlement in Yorkshire, England, this hymn has enjoyed widespread popularity from the beginning. It is characteristic of Montgomery's deep faith and passion for social justice.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

With Joy Draw Water

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Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6

1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.
3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.

The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!
God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!
The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!

This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.

Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.
Irish traditional melody
Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906