

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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

Rev. Hope Molozaai

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG “Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)”

Verse 1: **Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging;
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how You gently lift me;
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.**

Chorus: **Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing.**

Verse 2: **Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising;
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Ev'ry time I see You, all Your goodness shines through.
I can feel this God song rising up in me.**

Chorus twice through

Tag: **Your love makes me sing
Your love makes me sing**

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Cheryl Kazimier

One: From dust we came,
to dust we will return.

**All: Yet God breathes life into us,
fills our lives with good things,
and invites us into full and fabulous lives.**

One: We come to worship today to worship the One who is

All: the Bread,

One: the Light,

All: the Shepherd,

One: the Gate,

All: the Resurrection and the Life.

One: Let us pray:

Dear God, in this time may we know:

**All: a sharing with you that's deeper than
we've known before;**

One: an emptying of the burdens we carry
and the regrets we cling to;

**All: and a meeting with your peace that passes all
understanding. Amen.**

HYMN

"In All Our Living"

#499

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer

One: Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still.
In your presence our limits lie stark before us:

**All: We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts,
our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises,
and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One.**

One: We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given:

**All: We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods.
We have used each other. We have loved power more than
people. Forgive us, O Holy One.**

One: Cleanse from us the illusion of innocence.

All: Come into our hearts and make us new again.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Quiet Moment

Assurance of Pardon

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

THE CHANCEL STEPS with a sharing of ashes

The children are invited to the front of the church at this time.

Afterward, they are dismissed to Sunday school downstairs. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.

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.

Song Response "God is so Good"

**God is so good, God is so good,
God is good, God's so good to me.**

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel according to John 11:1-44

MESSAGE

Come and See Jesus Weeping

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

HYMN

"Jesus the Christ Says"

#48

TIME OF PRAYER

THE OFFERING

Rather than pass the offering plates, they are available at the front and back of the sanctuary before and after worship for you to place your gifts in. You may also give online at www.richmonducc.org/donate-now

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**O God, today we bring into the light
all that was hidden,
and we offer it for your transformation.
May our gifts work your love and compassion
in the lives of many. Amen.**

*HYMN

“Abide with Me”

#99

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Leader: From where we are to where you need us,

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: From the familiarity of what we know
to the wonder of what you will reveal,

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: To transform the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Sending Song “Eagles’ Wings”

**And God will raise you up on eagles’ 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 to Worship, Opening Prayer, & dedication, adp. from Spill the Beans, issue 26, p. 11;
confession, UCC Book of worship, service of the word I; Music shared under CCLI license
#1908882.

Altar flowers today are given by Carol Slighting
in memory of Bill Haase.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>March 1</u>
Liturgist	Cheryl Kazimier	George Zimmermann
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter	Elise Livingston	Cheryl Kazimier
Usher	George/ Mike K.	George/ Mike K.
Fellowship Hosts	Karen Wootton	Cheryl Heber
Sunday School	Gail C./Lydia B.	n/a

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

Today, 11:30am	Youth lunch w/ Pastor
Tuesday, 10:30am	Bible study on Zoom
Wednesday, 6pm	Soup Supper & discussion
7pm	Choir practice

CHURCH NEWS

FOR CONNECTION

LENTEN GATHERINGS

Throughout Lent, we'll meet on Wednesday evenings for soup suppers and conversations about faith. This year we're thinking about "Jesus Revealed" – how Jesus' own words about himself can help us understand him and ourselves.

We'll start those meals at 6:00 and finish at 7:00. New this year:

We will have some of our middle school kids available on Wednesdays to watch our youngest friends!

Also, the UCC church in Genoa City hosts community Lenten lunches. Every Wednesday, February 18 through March 1, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in their basement Fellowship Hall, NO COST. Pastor Hope likes to go, so if you plan to attend, see if she can join you!

EXODUS WORLD SERVICE CELEBRATION OF HOPE DINNER

Please join us at the Celebration of Hope on Thursday, April 16th. It will be at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. So far we have 5 people signed up from our church, and we will plan to carpool to the dinner. It's a lovely evening, and you will learn so much about Exodus and some of the families.

The dinner is complimentary, but they do pass around an envelope at the end of the evening for a contribution. We look forward to a fun, informative evening together! If you are available and interested, contact Carol Richardson by April 1st at robandcarol@richardsonfarm.com .

MEN SING SUNDAY

March 22nd – yes, it's a fourth Sunday again instead of fifth! All the men of the church are encouraged to come to the building AT 9:20 and rehearse a familiar hymn with Kim, then share it as part of worship that day.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- We are looking for a few folks to fill in some of our leadership roles, including:

Memorials committee is looking for one more person. This group meets as needed to disperse memorial funds for meaningful projects and gifts to the church.

Pastor-Parish Relations committee is looking for two more people. This group would meet about 3 times a year for supportive conversation with the pastor about overall relationship and vision in our shared ministry.

Evangelism Ministry is currently entirely vacant. If you're interested in this type of work, which could include coordinating some of our projects with the wider community (fall fest, trunk or treat, etc.) as well as greeting and following up with visitors, talk to George or Pastor Hope.

Reminder: Kathy Speaker is finishing her service as **Treasurer** after 2026. She is spending more and more time in Florida and elsewhere, and it's time to look for someone who is around town more, so that things don't fall through the cracks and keep running smoothly. Kathy has put together a little job description for this position, so if you are curious about what it takes to be treasurer, talk to Pastor Hope or reach out to Kathy (who's in Florida now but very accessible by phone and email).

FOR SERVICE

BABY CARE PACK COLLECTION

Our Wider Mission Ministry is working with Exodus World Service to collect items for a Baby Care Pack for a Burmese refugee family. The Nurul Salam family has five children (3 boys and 2 girls), and their fourth son is expected in April. They have been in the United States since December 2024.

When preparing for a new baby, many refugees miss their familiar community. Please offer comfort and blessing to their family by collecting much-needed items.

Our Sign-up will be from Feb 8-Feb 22. You may access the registry at

<https://signup.com/go/bppOQuJ> or scan the QR code to the right. Karen Wootton or Carol Richardson will be happy to answer any questions.

Please sign up today!



FOR LEARNING

THE PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY meets Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30am on Zoom, to discuss the sermon text for the coming Sunday. This week we're discussing John 11:45-12:11. Newcomers are always welcome! If you need help with Zoom or have other questions, talk with Pastor Hope. Our meeting ID is 897 4150 1804 with Passcode 061142 or use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741501804?pwd=7LGlzc5huiQXYdKcq4r8w4EaxUavOw.1>

SAVE THESE DATES

March 29, after worship, Palm Sunday Egg Dying for All Ages

April 5, Easter Sunday

April 12, Spring Tea Fundraiser at Richardson Event Room

April 18, Spring Cleaning Day

May 9, Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser

June 16-19, Vacation Bible School

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 22, 2026

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our Office (office@richmonducc.org). *We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

JOYS: Birthdays: Karen Wootton (2/21), Evelyn Heber (2/23), Mike Kennedy (2/23), Zofia Obara (2/26), Ina Obara (2/28)
Loved ones' recoveries and the success of an Exodus family's child

PRAYERS FOR:

Nicki's friend, Joe
Communities under stress due to ICE presence and other actions
Linda Swenson
Deann Workmon
Cheryl K's friend, Kevin Myers
Mike Anderson
Kim's daughter, Olivia
George's brother, Kurt
Jonathan Kaman's relative, Terri
Church friend, Tom Harris
Jessica's friend, Deanna

Ongoing Prayers

Kim's friend, Darin
All people living with increased anxiety
Pastor Ruth Costello
Valsa family's young friend, Levi Johnson
Louise Strahs
For peace around the world
Penny Kraft's friend, Gail
Louise Strah's niece, Amy

Please hold in prayer: this week's Congregational Prayer

Partners, Ode and Mary Ann Keil;

this week's Wider Church Prayer Partners, our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational UCC in Morehead, MN, and their pastor, The Rev. Michelle Weber.

Pues si vivimos

(In All Our Living)

St. 1, Mexican folk hymn; transl. anon.

St. 2, Elise S. Estlinger, 1983

Unison

D Em A7 D

1 Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa-ra Dios vi - vi - mos
 1 In all our liv - ing, we be-long to God;
 2 God sent Christ Je - sus to be our sha - lom,

Bm Em A7 D

y si mo - ri - mos, pa-ra Dios mo - ri - mos.
 and in our dy - ing, we are still with God;
 to show us mer - cy and heal - ing love;

D G A F#m

Se-a que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
 So, wheth-er liv - ing, or wheth-er dy - ing,
 So in our liv - ing, and in our dy - ing,

Bm Em A7 D

so - mos del buen Dios, so - mos del buen Dios.
 we be-long to God; we be-long to God.
 Christ is our sha - lom; Christ is our sha - lom.

This anonymous Mexican folk hymn was transcribed by
 hymnologist Gertrude Suppe after she first heard it sung by two

Tune: PUES SI VIVIMOS Irr.
 Anon.; arr. B. C. M., 1988

John 6:48; 14:6; 11:25; 8:12; 9:5

Urdu, anon.; alt.

Unison

C G/B C Dm/F

1 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the bread, the bread of life for the
 2 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the way, the way and the truth and the
 3 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the light, the one true light of the
 4 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the life, the res - ur - rec-tion and the

C/G G C Dm/F G

world am I. The bread of life for the world am I, the
 life am I. The way and the truth and the life am I, the
 world am I. The one true light of the world am I, the
 life am I. The res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I, the

Am Em G/D D G C G/B

bread of life for the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,
 way and the truth and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,
 one true light of the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,
 res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,

C Em Am Dm G7 C

I am the bread, the bread of life for the world am I.
 I am the way, the way and the truth and the life am I.
 I am the light, the one true light of the world am I.
 I am the life, the res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I.

This anonymous hymn, both text and tune, originated in Pakistan or northern India and has been sung around the world since its publication by the East Asia Christian Council and the World Council of Churches.

Tune: YISU NE KAH 9.9.9.9.9.
 Urdu melody
 Arr. Francis B. Westbrook, 1950

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Luke 24:29; 1 Cor. 15:55

Henry F. Lyte, 1847, alt.

1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The shad - ows deep - en, Lord, with me a - bide;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 I need your grace to foil the tempt - er's power.
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Christ who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Christ, a - bide with me.

Following the final sermon of his career, Henry F. Lyte handed a copy of this recently written hymn to a relative. He died two months later. The tune by W. H. Monk has contributed greatly to the popularity of the hymn.

Tune: EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10.
 William H. Monk, 1861