

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

## United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025

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 "How Great is Our God"

VERSE 1: **The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide;  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice**

CHORUS: **How great is our God, sing with me,  
how great is our God  
And all will see how great, how great is our God**

VERSE 2: **And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son;  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.**

CHORUS 2X

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Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Robert Richardson

One: As disciples of the Lord

**All: we gather in this house of God.**

One: As disciples of the Lord

**All: we recognize God's forgiving love.**

One: As disciples of the Lord

**All: we bow our hearts in worship.**

One: Let us pray.  
God of all time:

**All: Now,**

One: then;

**All: before,**

One: not yet;

**All: may we make time.**

One: May we be shaped to wait and linger in your mystery,  
and to hear heaven breathe within us,

**All: slowing us down,  
refocusing us toward the One who is beyond time.**

One: God of all time:  
may we make this place our meeting place,  
where work and rest come together,

**All: where worry and celebration join hands,**

One: where protest and possibility tangle.

**All: May this meeting place renew and refresh us.**

One: God of all time:  
may we believe in every time

**All: that there is always time to make time  
to breathe away the busyness and breathe in love.  
Amen.**

HYMN

“O God of Abraham Praise”

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### **WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

#### 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 “Halle, Halle, Halle”

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .**

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 20:8-11

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven

and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

### Deuteronomy 5:12-15

“Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

### The Gospel according to Luke 6:1-16

One Sabbath while Jesus was going through some grain fields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?” Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

On another Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees were watching him to see whether he would cure on the Sabbath, so that they might find grounds to bring an accusation against him. But he knew what they were thinking, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come and stand in the middle.” He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” After looking around at all of them, he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and began discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew,

and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

MESSAGE Seeing Jesus in Rules Kept and Broken

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN "As the Grains of Wheat"

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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](http://www.richmonducc.org/donate-now)*

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Lord of rest,**

**Teach us to live well for you.**

**Take us and what we offer now.**

**Use it all to call others to your Way of Love.**

**As we live to embody your life-giving healing.**

**Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: 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 Remembrance

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Each tray of bread also holds gluten free crackers; we serve grape juice rather than wine so that all people may share in this meal.*

*Please hold the bread and the juice until all are served so we all may partake together.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, to love and serve you in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Hear the Voice of God So Tender”

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NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “God Be With You”

**God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsel guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd’s care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Til we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

Liturgy from Spill the Beans, Issue 21. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

	<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	<b><u>February 9</u></b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Rob Richardson	Elise Livingston
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Usher</b>	Dick Strahs	
<b>Greeter</b>	Ron Obara	Bill Vezina
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	Tedders	NEEDED
<b>Sunday School</b>	N/A	George Z./Lydia B.

## **THIS WEEK AT CHURCH**

- Zoom Bible Study, Tuesday, 1:00pm
- Wider Missions Meeting, Tuesday, 2:30
- Choir Practice, Wednesday at 7pm
- Pastor away on retreat, Wednesday thru Friday

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR STUDY**

**LIMITED TIME BIBLE STUDY OFFER** – Pastor Hope is leading a Bible study on Zoom, Tuesdays from 1:00-2:15pm through February 25<sup>th</sup>. Each week, we will look closely at the gospel reading coming up for the following Sunday. You never know when your insights will make it into Pastor’s sermon! Everyone is welcome to join in, no special Bible knowledge is needed! You can join by using this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87554614138?pwd=NDb3hHCtMCPzT98vIQg8p7RU3aD6Bu.1>

Or you can go to the website zoom.us and use Meeting ID 875 5461 4138 and Passcode 562367.

This week we’ll discuss Luke 7:1-17.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT...**

Though Lent is a little way off yet, you might want to order a copy of the book we will focus on during our Lenten discussions: “Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep”, by Tish Harrison Warren.

This book asks “How can we trust God in the dark?”

When the author navigated a time of doubt and great loss through miscarriage, the evening prayer called Compline was grounding for her. She writes that practices of prayer "gave words to my anxiety and grief and allowed me to reencounter the doctrines of the

church not as tidy little antidotes for pain, but as a light in darkness, as good news."

Whether or not you expect to join in the Wednesday Lenten gatherings, *Prayer in the Night* will give you an exploration of the real struggles of everyday life, held within a frame of prayer, and give you practical ways to put more of this prayer and reflection into action in your life. Where do we find comfort when we lie awake worrying or weeping in the night? This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty. This book is available in many formats, including e-reader and audiobook.

If you would prefer that Pastor Hope order a hard copy for you, please let her know by February 16; the cost will be \$15.

### **FOR SERVICE**

**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](http://www.raiseright.com/brands) . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mriapk@gmail.com) or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the upper hallway.

**Gift Card App** We can also support this fundraiser through the RaiseRight app with your smartphone. Gift cards for many places are available digitally for you to purchase and then use right away at the store you're shopping in or the restaurant you're eating at! Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly.

### **FOR CONNECTION**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** – We are planning to receive new members in February. If you are interested in learning more about church membership, talk with Pastor Hope or plan to attend an informational time after worship on February 9.

**EXTRA REPORTS** from the Annual Meeting are available on the table in the lounge. If you would like a digital copy, contact Kathy at [office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 2, 2025**

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). *We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

**JOYS:** Birthdays: James Brossart (2/5)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Bill Haase

Refugee families

Kim's friend, Melissa

Cheryl Heber's friends, Gaddini family

Cease fire in Gaza

Joshua, son of Jennifer Cannady, who cleans our building

Those affected by the California wildfires

Charles Kemp's brother, David

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Rev. Ruth Costello

Bill Haase

Henry Eickelberg

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

**Our Congregational Prayer Partner** this week is Jeremy Crutcher and Dayton.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Little Home Church by the Wayside in Wayne and their Pastor, Mr. Larry Dieffenbach.

**Members and Friends who are Homebound:** Betty Waspi



# Yigdal Elohim Chai

(The God of Abraham Praise)

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

Moses Maimonides, 12th century

Verseification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400

Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,  
 1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,  
 2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;  
 3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;  
 4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,

nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to  
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!  
 God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.  
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.  
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!

E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,  
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;  
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,  
 All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,  
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;

The twelfth-century scholar Moses Maimonides drew up the thirteen articles of the Hebrew creed, which were subsequently cast in metrical form (the Yigdal). This translation represents an ecumenical collaboration between Rabbi Landsberg and Unitarian minister Mann.

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
 Traditional Yigdal melody  
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770


ne - lam v' - gam ein sof I' - ach - du - to.  
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!  
 deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.  
 who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!  
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

OFFERTORY


783

Text and music: Marty Haugen, 1990

♩ Refrain



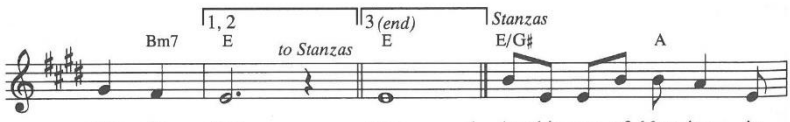
As the grains of wheat once



scat-tered on the hill were gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;




so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to



one in you. you. 1 As this cup of bless-ing is  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of

to Refrain ♩



shared with-in our midst, may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all that is to come when all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## Hear the Voice of God, So Tender

Mark 2:21-22; Ps. 103

Lavon Bayler, 1987; rev. 1993

*Introduction* *Unison*

1 Hear the voice of God, so ten-der, gath-ering  
 2 God is heal-ing and for-giv-ing crea-tures  
 3 Lis-tening to the Spir-it's guid-ing, breath be-  
 4 Shed the old wine-skins of war-fare for the

us in righ-teous-ness, Giv-ing, as our sure de-fend-er,  
 who are sore dis-tressed, O-pen-ing doors to hope-ful liv-ing,  
 yond the writ-ten code, We, in cov-e-nant a-bid-ing,  
 fresh new wines of peace, Know-ing God sus-tains our wel-fare

stead-fast love and faith-ful-ness. Bless God's ho-ly name to-geth-er,  
 as, by love, we're dai-ly blessed. Bless God's ho-ly name to-geth-er,  
 seek to write our let-ters bold. Bless God's ho-ly name to-geth-er,  
 with a love that will not cease. Bless God's ho-ly name to-geth-er,

as the Spir-it brings new life. Giv-ing, as our sure de-  
 as the Spir-it brings new life. O-pen-ing doors to hope-ful  
 as the Spir-it brings new life. We, in cov-e-nant a-  
 as the Spir-it brings new life. Know-ing God sus-tains our

*This is one of the hundreds of hymn texts Lavon Bayler has provided in her books of liturgical resources related to the common lectionary. It appears in the volume for year B, aptly titled Whispers of God.*

Tune: RAQUEL 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1985  
 Alternate tune: BEACH SPRING

EPIPHANY SEASON

fend - er,      stead-fast      love and faith - ful - ness.  
liv - ing,      as, by      love, we're dai - ly      blessed.  
bid - ing,      seek to      write our let - ters      bold.  
wel - fare      with a      love that will      not      cease.