

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

## United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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 Moloza iy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG

“Enough”

Chorus

**All of You is more than enough for all of me  
For ev'ry thirst and ev'ry need  
You satisfy me with Your love  
And all I have in You is more than enough**

Verse 1:

**You're my supply my breath of life  
Still more awesome than I know  
You're my reward worth living for  
Still more awesome than I know**

Repeat Chorus

Verse 2:

**You're my sacrifice of greatest price  
Still more awesome than I know  
You're my coming King You are ev'rything  
Still more awesome than I know**

Repeat Chorus

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Robert Richardson

One: We gather on this Lord's Day to celebrate the saving acts and presence of Christ!

**All: Christ touches us with healing and makes us whole;**

One: he teaches us God's love and brings us to life;  
**All: he washes us in baptism's waters and frees us from sin;**  
One: he reconciles us to God and unites us with others;  
**All: he feeds us with bread and abides with us;**  
One: he shapes us as servants and equips us to lead.  
**All: Blessing, glory, and honor for God forever!**  
One: Let us pray:  
Your steadfast love is our joy, righteous God.  
**All: We gather to rejoice in your salvation,  
to sing praises to you for your healing gifts to us.**  
One: You've called us to faith  
and have given us strength to live out that faith.  
**All: You've joined us together in the life of Christ.  
Hear our prayers and our praise, in Christ's name.  
Amen.**

HYMN "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

#55

#### TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer (we say together)

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we are in bondage to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. 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."*

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

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

### THE CHANCEL STEPS

*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 "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me"

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime.  
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to John 4:46-5:18

MESSAGE Do We Want to be Made Well? It's Complicated

## **WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD**

HYMN "We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness" #179

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

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Generous God, faithful and wise,  
giver of life and healing,  
bless what we give back to you today.  
Take these offerings and use them  
for the healing of nations and the healing of broken hearts.  
We pray in Jesus' name, amen.**

\*HYMN "Here, Savior, in this Quiet Place" #555

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Something Beautiful for God"

**Today let us do something beautiful for God.  
Do something small, but do it with great love.  
Do what we can where we are with what we've got.  
Today let us do something beautiful for God.  
Today let us do something beautiful for God.  
Today let us do something beautiful for God.**

Credits: Call to Worship and opening prayer, Chalice Worship # 85 & #173; confession, UCC Book of worship, service for word and sacrament I; dedication, Spill the Beans, Is. 25, p. 81. Music shared under CCLI license #1908882

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

**February 15**

**Liturgist**  
**Video Director**  
**Greeter**  
**Usher**  
**Fellowship Hosts**  
**Sunday School**

Robert Richardson  
Nicki Carter  
Ronnie Obara  
George/ Mike K.  
Jan Revelle  
Gail C./Lydia B.

Henry Molozaiky  
  
Dawn & Mike  
George/ Mike K.  
The Kamans  
Gail C./Lydia B.

**AT CHURCH THIS WEEK**

Today, 11:15am Youth Education Mtg  
Monday, 6:30pm Cabinet meeting on Zoom  
Tuesday, 10:30am Bible Study on Zoom  
Wednesday, 1:30 Wider Mission Mtg  
7pm Choir practice  
Thursday, noon Pastor at county clergy gathering  
6:30pm Women's Fellowship gathering  
Saturday, 8am Men's Breakfast Club  
Next Sunday, 11:15am Worship & Spiritual Growth Mtg

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR SERVICE**

#### **BABY CARE PACK**

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 below. Karen Wootton or Carol Richardson will be happy to answer any questions.

*Please sign up!*

Scan this code with your smartphone camera now:



#### **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.

#### **GIFT CARD FUNRAISER – Goes all year ‘round**

Support the church with your gift card purchases!

- Buy a physical card that Penny has on-hand today!
- Order the specific cards you want through Penny by filling out a gift card order form and have your cards within a week.
- Get the app. If you already have digital banking set up on your phone, you can take advantage for the RaiseRight app. With it, you can order virtual cards any time – while you’re in line at your favorite store or after you’ve ordered at your favorite restaurant! – and support the church. Penny, the Speakers and the Obaras are all happy to talk to you about getting set up.

## **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 9:1-41. 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=7LG1zc5huiQXYdKcq4r8w4EaxUavOw.1>

## **BACKGROUND ON JOHN'S GOSPEL**

- Remember how John started: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it... The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

It can sound like a poetic, but confusing jumble of thoughts, but if we look, we find that many of things John mentions there are themes that he picks up in the first chapters of this gospel.

- Darkness and light are played out in the nighttime conversation with Nicodemus and the noontime visit with the Samaritan woman. These will be mentioned many more times where darkness represents not understanding who Jesus is, and light represents understanding.

- Life is brought up when talking to Nicodemus ("God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" and again with the Samaritan woman ("The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life") and features in today's story when Jesus affirms that "your son lives."

- "Full of grace and truth" – As I mentioned last week, John has a HUGE interest in Jesus as truth. He uses the words "truth" and "true" about 10 times more than any other gospel does. He told the Samaritan woman it was time for "true" worshippers to worship God "in spirit and in truth." We will also find MANY more mentions of Life and Truth as we continue through this gospel, ideas that John hinted we should listen for when he wrote his opening paragraphs.

## **FOR CONNECTION**

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REBOOT**

We are interested in getting a women's fellowship group back to a regularly meeting group! Karen Wootton is spearheading this effort and hopes for a lively gathering of many church women. The first gathering will be on **Thursday, February 12, 6:30pm**, at the church. Evening refreshments will be provided, and we'll chat about what we want a women's fellowship group to look like for these days. Come and see!

### **LENTEN GATHERINGS**

Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday, on February 18. We'll gather that night for a soup supper at 6:00 followed by a simple worship service, which will start at 7:00. You're welcome to attend one or both parts of that evening.

Throughout Lent, we'll meet on Wednesday evenings for more 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 at NO COST. Pastor Hope often likes to go, so if you plan to attend, see if she can join you!

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 8, 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:** We rejoice with the Ketchen family, friends of the Mulveys, on Becky's clean bill of health.

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Mike Anderson

Kim's daughter, Olivia

All who are impacted by the death of Alex Pretti

George's brother, Kurt

Jonathan Kaman's relative, Terri

Karen's son, Jason

Church friend, Tom Harris

Kim's friend, Darin

Jessica's friend, Deanna

Our country, especially Minneapolis, Portland and other places of high disturbance

All people living with increased anxiety

### **Ongoing Prayers**

Linda Swenson

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**, Ken and Cheryl Kazimier;

**this week's Wider Church Prayer Partners**, our neighbors in Christ at All Nations Indian UCC in Minneapolis and their pastors, The Rev. Joan Conroy and Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy.

# Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

55

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

1 Re - joi - ce, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;  
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,  
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,  
5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!  
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.  
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.  
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:  
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

## Refrain

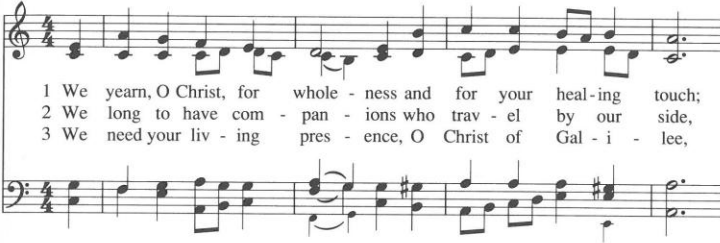
Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing.  
Re - joi - ce Re - joi - ce

*This hymn, inspired by Philippians 4:4, was written for the Choral Festival held at Peterborough Cathedral in England. The author was an Anglican priest and a professor of theology at Oxford University.*

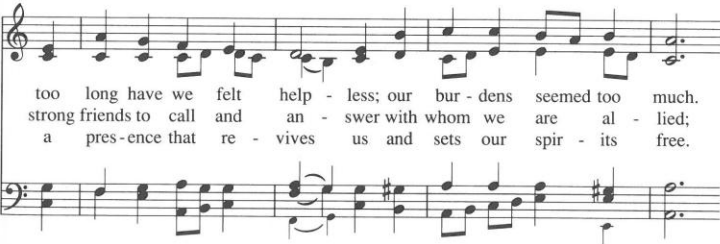
Tune: MARION S.M. with refrain  
Arthur H. Messiter, 1883  
For an alternate setting, see 71  
Alternate tune: CHRISTPRAISE RAY

## We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

179

*Dosia Carlson, 1986; rev. 1993*


1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal - ing touch;  
2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,  
3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,



too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.  
strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;  
a pres - ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.



For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead - ings heard,  
As we lift up each oth - er when strug - gles lay us low,  
No long - er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.



in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra - cious Word.  
com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.  
Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal - ing grace.

*Dosia Carlson is noted for her ministry at Beatitudes United Church of Christ in Phoenix, Arizona, and for her hymnwriting. This text was inspired by a sermon given by Harold Wilke during the International Year of Persons with Disabilities (1983).*

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.

*Hans Leo Hassler, 1601*

*Harm. J. S. Bach, 1719*

*For another harmonization, see 202*

## Here, Savior, in this Quiet Place

James 5:13-16; Mark 9:14-29

Fred Pratt Green, 1974; alt.

1 Here, Sav - ior, in this qui - et place, where  
 2 If pain of bod - y, stress of mind, de -  
 3 If self up - on its sick - ness feeds and  
 4 You nev - er said, "You ask too much," to

an - y - one may kneel, I al - so come to ask for  
 stroy's my in - ward peace, In prayer for oth - ers may I  
 turns my life to gall, Let me not brood up - on my  
 an - y trou - bled soul. I long to feel your heal - ing

grace, be - liev - ing you can heal.  
 find the se - cret of re - lease.  
 needs, but sim - ply tell you all.  
 touch— will you not make me whole?

5 But if the thing I most de-sire  
 is not your way for me,  
 May faith, when test-ed in the fire,  
 prove its in-teg-ri-ty.

6 Of all my prayers, may this be chief:  
 till faith is ful-ly grown,  
 Christ, dis-be-lieve my un-be-lief,  
 and claim me as your own.

*Peter Cutts, Director of Music and Associate Dean of Chapel at Andover Newton Theological School, was commissioned to provide a musical setting for this text especially for The New Century Hymnal. Cutts' work appears in numerous hymnals in the United States and his native Great Britain.*

Tune: CHATHAM C.M.  
 Peter Cutts, 1994

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