

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

## United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 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<br>Sharing of Joys and Concerns | Rev. Hope Molozaai |
| GATHERING SONG "Love Has Come"                   | see handout        |
| CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER                 | Cheryl Heber       |
| Broadway: This side                              |                    |
| <b>West: Or the other;</b>                       |                    |
| Broadway: Here                                   |                    |
| <b>West: Or there;</b>                           |                    |
| Broadway: Now                                    |                    |
| <b>West: Or then;</b>                            |                    |
| Broadway: May we follow God                      |                    |
| <b>West: Wherever God calls us.</b>              |                    |
| Broadway: From beach                             |                    |
| <b>West: To pavement;</b>                        |                    |
| Broadway: From shoreline                         |                    |
| <b>West: To downtown;</b>                        |                    |
| Broadway: From sea                               |                    |
| <b>West: To land;</b>                            |                    |
| Broadway: May we follow God                      |                    |
| <b>West: Wherever God calls us.</b>              |                    |
| Broadway: From the past                          |                    |
| <b>West: Into the future;</b>                    |                    |
| Broadway: From right                             |                    |
| <b>West: To left;</b>                            |                    |
| Broadway: From where we are                      |                    |
| <b>West: To where we will be;</b>                |                    |
| Broadway: May we follow God                      |                    |
| <b>West: Wherever God calls us.</b>              |                    |

One: Let us pray.

God of abundance and opportunity,  
you challenge our understanding:

**All: even when we think we know it all,  
you have new discoveries for us to make.**

One: We come to worship you, and to take our place again  
in the great adventure to which you call us.

**All: Like fishermen after a long, hard night,  
we come after a week that has left some of us  
exhausted,**

One: some of us filled with affirmation,

**All: some of us uncertain,**

One: some of us joyful,

**All: some of us bewildered.**

One: But all of us are ready to hear your Word today.

As the world rocks below our feet,  
as what seemed certain is revealed for what it is—  
temporary and partial—

may we grasp the net with you to capture what is lasting:  
your Way of grace and love.

**All: We confess that  
we have been distracted by the world's desires,  
and attracted by the baubles of consumerism,  
the lure of self-centered ways of living,  
the ease with which we forget our neighbors.  
Forgive us, abundantly,  
for only by your grace can we relinquish  
our grasp on what holds us back.  
May we step forward with Simon and Andrew  
to follow your call, never looking back.  
In the name of Jesus,  
hear our prayer.  
Amen.**

## PASSING 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**

ANTHEM

CHANCEL CHOIR

## CHANCEL STEPS

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

Song Response “Wherever Love Is”

**Wherever love is, God is there too  
God is in me, ‘cause I love you  
Wherever love is, God is there too  
God is wherever love is.**

Copyright Crosswind Music

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 90:14-17

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us  
and as many years as we have seen evil.  
Let your work be manifest to your servants  
and your glorious power to their children.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

The Gospel according to Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that

their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

MESSAGE      Life-Changing Abundance

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN              "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"      #173

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

*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)

**God of abundance,  
use us and what we bring before you  
to serve the Kingdom that you inaugurate.  
Let us be true and faithful to your calling  
in all we are and all we do. Amen.**

HYMN              "O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"                      #503

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

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

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

|                         | <b><u>TODAY</u></b>  | <b><u>February 2</u></b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Liturgist</b>        | Cheryl Heber         | Rob Richardson           |
| <b>Video Director</b>   | Nicki Carter         |                          |
| <b>Usher</b>            | Dick Strahs          |                          |
| <b>Greeter</b>          | Elise L. & George Z. | Ron Obara                |
| <b>Fellowship Hosts</b> | Kamans               | Tedders                  |
| <b>Sunday School</b>    | Jean V./Lydia B.     | N/A                      |

**THIS WEEK AT CHURCH**

- Youth Education Meeting today at 11:15am
- Zoom Bible Study on Tuesday at 1pm
- Choir Practice, Wednesday at 7pm

**CHURCH NEWS**

**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

**CONTACT INFORMATION** for new members of our community is available on an extra directory page in the lounge. Remember to inform the church office if your contact information changes.

**LIMITED TIME BIBLE STUDY OFFER** – Pastor Hope will lead a Bible study on Zoom, Tuesdays from 1:00-2:15pm, starting this Tuesday and going 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 will be discussing Luke 6:1-16.

**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.

**THANKS FOR A GREAT ANNUAL MEETING** – Thanks to all who were able to attend last week’s annual meeting of the congregation. We shared a lot of great information and brainstormed a delightful variety of new ideas for our life together! Cabinet will be looking more closely at those brainstormed ideas to see what we might move forward with first. If you thought of some ideas during the week that you wished you’d suggested, or if you weren’t with us last week, the Post-it notes and posterboards are in the lounge today. Please write just one idea per Post-it and please include your name so we can follow up. George wants you all to remember we won’t act on every idea that’s generated, but this process helps the church leaders see what ideas are brewing for our community life!

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF January 26, 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: Debbie Franzone (1/28); Jim Valsa (2/1); Rob Rummel (2/1).

This week, we are thankful for the little things in life that give us joy and make our lives less stressful. And for water running to all of the church restrooms!

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Cease fire in Gaza

Church family in crisis

Bill Haase

Joshua, son of Jennifer Cannady, who cleans our building

Those affected by the California wildfires

Charles Kemp's brother, David

Cheryl Kazimier's niece, Tricia B.

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Rev. Ruth Costello

Bill Haase

Henry Eickelberg

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

**Our Congregational Prayer Partners** this week are Gail and Jeni Crutcher.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John's U.C.C. in Waukegan and their Pastor, the Rev. Selena Blackwell.

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

## **TELL ME WHY**, by Ellis Miller

One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts. - Psalm 145:4 (NRSVUE)

I was an awkward and earnest teenager who said yes to just about anything that involved the church, which is how I found myself on a church committee at 15 years old. I don't remember a single agenda item from the years I served, nor any of the discussions or decisions we made. I couldn't even tell you if we followed Robert's Rules or not.

All I remember were the car rides to and from each meeting with a fellow committee member, my senior by a few decades, who took the time to explain why we were meeting and why the work we did together was important. They talked about being trusted with God's resources and the awesome responsibility of helping decide what to do with those resources. They connected the business of the church with the ministry of God in ways that encouraged me to keep showing up. Understanding the "why" helped me claim my place at the table long before I fully understood what it was we did as a committee.

Now I'm the one who has decades on our church's youth, but I remember those early lessons whenever I get in the car to drive to church for another meeting and wonder, "Why am I doing this, again?"

The psalmist, singing about how generations will proclaim all the good God does, offers their own reason why: We do this because God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (verse 8.)

Church committees come and go. The business of the church transforms to meet the needs of the day, but our why is always the same. We do it because God is steadfast. We do it because God is love.

Prayer

In knowing you, Holy One, may we find our why.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ellis Miller serves as the Designated Pastor of Granby Congregational Church, UCC and is the author of *Only Work Sundays: A Laidback Guide to Doing Less while Helping Your Church Thrive*.



# Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

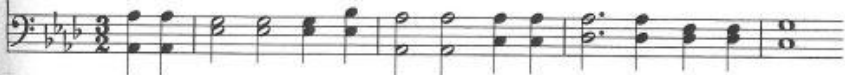
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Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; alt.

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; John 21:15



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest - less sea;  
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,  
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."  
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.  
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."  
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."  
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.



*Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist, William Jude.*

Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.  
William H. Jude, 1887  
Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW

# Tú has venido a la orilla

(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
 2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi  
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
 2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo  
 bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo  
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly  
 trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

Estribillo (Refrain)  
 D7  
 quie - res que yo te si - ga. Je -  
 re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.  
 ask - ing for me to fol - low. O  
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;  
 Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

8.10.10. with refrain

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979

Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

son - ri - en - do,                      has di - cho mi nom - bre;  
kind - ly smil - ing,                      you've called out my name.

en la a - re - na                      he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;  
On the sand I                      have a - ban - doned my small boat;

jun - to a ti                      bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
now with you                      I will seek oth - er seas.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>3. Tú ne - ce - si - tas mis ma - nos,<br/>mi can - san - cio que a o - tros des - can - se,<br/>a - mor que que - ra se - guir a - man - do.<br/><i>Estrillo</i></p>           | <p>3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion,<br/>work - ing love for the rest of the<br/>wea - ry—<br/>A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.<br/><i>Refrain</i></p>            |
| <p>4. Tú, Pes - ca - dor de o - tros ma - res,<br/>an - sia e - ter - na de al - mas que es - pe - ran.<br/>A - mi - go bue - no, que a - sí me lla - mas.<br/><i>Estrillo</i></p> | <p>4. You who have fished oth - er wa - ters;<br/>you, the long - ing of souls that are<br/>yearn - ing:<br/>As lov - ing Friend, you have come<br/>to call me.<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> |

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

Washington Gladden, 1879, alt.

1 O Sav - ior, let me walk with you in earth - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; let me be in clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret,  
 win - ning word of love. Teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
 you can give, with you, O Sav - ior, let me live.

Washington Gladden was a Congregational minister, distinguished preacher and lecturer, and author of over thirty works. Gladden wrote extensively on civic and social affairs of his day. This hymn was penned in 1879 and published in his periodical, The Sunday Afternoon.

Tune: MARYTON L.M.  
 H. Percy Smith, 1874