

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 21, 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.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Elise Livingston

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG "I Woke Up This Morning"

Verse 1: **I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus**

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus

Chorus: **Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah**

Verse 2: **Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus
(repeat twice)**

Repeat Chorus

CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER

Nicki Carter

One: Come and worship,
everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

One: For listening when we call,
answering our prayers,
forgiving our mistakes,
and providing what we need:

All: let's praise God together!

One: Come and worship,
everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

One: Let us pray:

O God of Seed and Harvest, we do come to praise you together, and to renew our promises to you,

All: for you have overcome our failings; you have forgiven our sins and answered our prayers.

One: Thank you for sending the rain to make the land rich and fertile,

All: thank you for filling the streams with water,

One: thank you for providing the earth with crops,

All: for making the young plants grow,

One: thank you for the cattle in the pastures and the sheep upon the hillside.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the season of growth and the harvest to come. Amen.

HYMN "From All that Dwell Below the Skies"

#27

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

WORD FOR ALL AGES

George Zimmermann

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

Afterward, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.

SONG RESPONSE "Good Soil"

(see insert)

(after singing, please leave your copy on the pew so we can reuse it)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-10

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

The Gospel according to Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

SPECIAL MUSIC

Penny Kraft & Cheryl Heber

MESSAGE Planting Seeds of Renewal: Here Comes the Sun
Featuring Phyllis Kazimier, Cheryl Heber, and Penny Kraft

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

HYMN “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” #556

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment,
may we become imitators of you, Gracious God,
who holds nothing back from us,
but is generous and gracious with all that is yours.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN “We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed” #540

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Eagle’s Wings”

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s 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, by Christine Longhurst on re:worship; opening prayer, by Michael Perry, on <http://www.jubilate.co.uk/>; Dedication, Thom Schuman at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca>. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

Nicki Carter

July 28

Elise Livingston

Liturgist

Video Director

Greeter/Usher

Fellowship Hosts

Sunday School

Dick Strahs

The Tedders

The Tedders

The Obaras

NEEDED

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

PASTOR HOPE returns from her vacation this Friday, July 26. If you need help with a church-related issue before then, contact President Elise Livingston for help.

Next Sunday, we will baptize Jordan Torres. The Torres family lives in Woodstock, and they have come to us in previous years when we have baptized their two older boys, Landon and Noah. When we celebrate the sacrament next week, we represent the whole great cloud of witnesses who will bless and guide and influence Jordan throughout his life.

WE ARE ALL INVITED to celebrate Evelyn Heber’s Graduation! Graduation Party / Open House for Evelyn Heber Sunday, July 28th from 1 to 5 pm
Hebron Community Park
12314 Price Road, Hebron IL (corner of Price and Moraine roads)

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE



**SUMMER
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We just need **THREE** more teachers for this fun summer tradition!

We love for people who don’t normally teach Sunday school during the program year to take a Sunday of the summer!

The sign-up sheet is in the lounge. **THANK YOU** for your support!

OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE is Tuesday, August 13, 3:30-7:30pm. Please plan to give.

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!!

- Sunday, August 4, 4 to 7PM
Beach Picnic at Richardson Lake

This event is hosted by the Youth Education Ministry and open to everyone at church. We'll fish, fellowship, and share a simple hot dog meal. Bring your own chair, your fishing pole, swimming suit – depending on your interests – and a picnic-friendly side or dessert. The Youth Education team will provide hot dogs and buns.



- Saturday, August 17, 11am-1:30pm
Annual Beef Roast

We will again offer drive-thru sales in the parking lot and outdoor seating available for those who want to enjoy their meal on-site. Meals are \$17 this year for the all-inclusive beef roast meal. Bulk beef and pickles are available while supplies last and drinks are available for an extra cost.

You can help by inviting your friends and neighbors!

Find all the details on our Facebook page, and you can share it to help spread the word.

We need help in the days beforehand to set up the outdoor dining area and prep some food and supplies.

We need help on the 17th inside packaging the meals to go, taking orders and payments, and with general hosting duties.

Jim and Kathy Speaker are our main event organizers; let them know how you can help!

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF July 21, 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: Tiana Obara (7/22); Phoebe Valsa (7/22); Georgia Tedder (7/25); Jeni Crutcher (7/25); Bob Jooss (7/26)

Thanks for seeing Betty Waspi at the Richmond High School Reunion Event

PRAYERS FOR:

Robert Richardson

George Zimmermann's sister, Cheryl Shepherd

Charles Kemp's brother, David

Carol Slighting's daughter, Cindy

Mike and Donna Anderson's sister-in-law, Mary DeRoos

Mike and Kathy Karch

Aiden Zimmermann

Former President Trump and all affected by the shootings at his rally recently

Our country during this election season

Annabelle Ortz traveling

Wider Church—IL Conference

Ongoing Prayers:

Rev. Ruth Costello

Louise Strah's niece, Amy

Mike Karch

Lenik

Bill Haase

Melissa Jones

Henry Eickelberg

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Penny and Jim Kraft.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Faith Community U.C.C. in Bensenville and their Pastor, the Rev. Greg Sabetta.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

Churchfolk, a devotional by Vince Amlin, co-pastor of Bethany UCC, Chicago, and co-planter of Gilead Church Chicago

“Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of [humanity].” - 2 Corinthians 8:17-21, abridged (NIV)

I love the workaday parts of the New Testament. The passages that read more like meeting minutes than holy writ. The bit in the Book of Acts where they form a subcommittee to focus on food service. Or this piece in which Paul assures the Corinthians there will always be more than one person present when the offering is counted.

I love how boring they are!

I love that alongside the flaming tongues of Pentecost, the Church saw fit to include the mundane details of Monday’s board meeting. That the same book that contains the final cataclysm of Revelation also records a newsletter blurb about this year’s stewardship team.

I love them because they remind me of the sacredness of so much mundane churchwork.

Vacuuming Sunday school rugs. Getting roofing bids. Signing checks. Running the livestream. Making the coffee. Doing the dishes. Folding the bulletins. Counting the offering.

I love that when these ordinary things are done in service to the good news of God’s love, they are akin to miracles.

Prayer

God, thank you for churchfolk, who take up their work with much enthusiasm and on their own initiative.

The StillSpeaking Daily Devotionals are a work of the StillSpeaking Writers Group of the United Church of Christ and supported by Our Church’s Wider Mission.

For your own consideration:

What's something that you are particularly skilled at? (Don't be shy; we've all got something.)

How did you first start to realize that you had talents for that particular thing?

How often do you get to use that skill? Is it part of your daily life or a rare talent that only comes out occasionally?

Do you ever feel like you're doing something holy when you're involved in using that skill? If you've not felt that way before, consider that God might be particularly nearby when you're using those particular talents.

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 117

Unison

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, God; your truth stands ev - er high and

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

rise; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's name be
 broad: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your praise shall sound from shore to

(Harmony)

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

(Unison)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Isaac Watts, author of more than 600 hymns, paraphrased the two verses of Psalm 117 into this two-stanza hymn, which was included in his *Psalms of David*, 1719. The tune originated in a German Catholic hymnal.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 8.8.4.4.8.8, with alleluia
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 556

Catherine Cameron, 1967

Gen. 5:1-2; Isa. 42:5-9

1 God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens in-fi-nite in time and place,
 2 We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
 3 As each far hor-i-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge us a-new,

Flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance through the si-lent fields of space;
 Known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing through un-trav-eled realms of space;
 Chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose, serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring you.

We, your chil-dren, in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive powers with you;
 Probed the se-crets of the at-om, yield-ing un-i-mag-ined power,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well be-gun;

Great Cre-a-tor, still cre-a-ting, show us what we yet may do.
 Fac-ing us with life's de-struct-ion or our most tri-um-phant hour.
 Great Cre-a-tor, give us guid-ance till our goals and yours are one.

Catherine Cameron, a professor of social psychology in California, wrote this text in 1967 with Haydn's Austrian Hymn in mind. This tune, Holy Manna, appeared in The Columbian Harmony (1825), and was attributed to the compiler of that volume, William Moore.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Moore, 1825

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We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Matt. 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19;
John 13:34–35; 15:12–17

Mary Bryan Matney, 1990

1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields.
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings.

5 So may our new be - gin - nings prove,
like liv - ing bread and wine,
that through our com - mon hu - man love
we taste what is di - vine;
that through our com - mon hu - man love
we taste what is di - vine.

6 Our lives will be ful - filled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown
and by the love that we pro - fess
the love of Christ is known;
and by the love that we pro - fess
the love of Christ is known.

Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by the Charlotte, North Carolina, chapter of the American Guild

Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6
Sally Ann Morris, 1990