



**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ**

**Our Church at Worship on the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
with the Sacrament of Baptism for Jordan Julian Torres**

July 28, 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

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG "My Life is in You, Lord"

Chorus

**My life is in You, Lord;
My strength is in You, Lord;
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.
My life is in You, Lord,
My strength is in You, Lord;
My hope is in You Lord, in You, it's in You.**

Verse

**I will praise You with all of my life;
I will praise You with all of my strength.
With all of my life, with all of my strength,
All of my hope is in You.**

Repeat Chorus

Tag **It's in You, it's in You. In You.**

Words and Music by Daniel Gardner © 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER Elise Livingston

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you people!

Let's worship the Lord with gladness;
let's come together with singing in God's house.

**All: We come to worship because the Lord is God,
because it is God who made us and we belong to God;
because we are God's people and the sheep of God's
pasture.**

One: Let us pray.

**All: O God, we come to sing,
rejoicing in the good that walks this land.
We come to be silent,**

repenting of the evil that stalks this land.

One: We come because here we are reminded that you are both our creator and our conscience.
Here all our loyalties are put in their proper place, ordered behind our allegiance to you.

**All: Be with us in our celebration and our confession.
We pray this in the name of Christ, to whom we all belong. Amen.**

HYMN “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” #403
verses 1 & 2 only

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:
God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.
God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.
God promises to all who trust in the gospel: forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.**

WORD FOR ALL AGES

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

SONG RESPONSE “The Whole World”

The whole world is in God’s hands (repeat 3 times)
The world is in God’s hands.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Candidate for Baptism: Jordan Julian Torres

Parents: Jorge and Emily Torres

Sponsors in Baptism: Jorge R. Lara Bahena and Raziel S. Torres
Gonzalez

Welcome and Address

Pastor: We remember that loving parents were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

**People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the realm of God.
Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

We remember also that Jesus came to John to be baptized.

But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “yet you have come to me!”

People: Jesus said, “Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed.

Pastor: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

People: Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Pastor: At another time Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions of Baptism

Congregational Promise

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Response of Praise (we sing)

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.

Prayer for the Baptized (we say together)

**Gracious God, who filled the world with joy
by giving us the gift of Jesus,**

bless our newly baptized brother, Jordan.

May he be filled with your joy.

**May he never be ashamed to confess
a personal faith in you.**

Bless Jorge and Emily;

sustain in them in love and care for Jordan.

Bless us all in this community of faith.

Unite us in the peace of Christ

and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

#325

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to John 3:16-17 and 10:11-16

“For God so love the world that he gave his only Son...”

“The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and ...runs away...”

Paul’s Letter to the Romans 14:1-4, 7-8

“...whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s...”

MESSAGE 60 Years with the United Church of Christ:
We Belong to Christ

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

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

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

O God, bless these offerings of our lives.

Let us humbly serve as Christ has served,

and compassionately welcome as Christ welcomes us.

Empty us, so we may be filled with your generous spirit.

Amen.

*HYMN “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

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NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "When the Lord's in You"

**When the Lord's in you, and the Lord's in me,
there's a bridge between our spirits,
wherever we may be.**

'Til we meet again

let us hold the Mystery of the Lord in you and me.

(Bryan Sirchio Used with permission. Crosswinds Music, Madison WI)

Call, from Psalm 100; opening prayer, adp. from Chalice Worship, p. 174; dedication, Chalice Worship, #539. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

Liturgist

Elise Livingston

August 4

Jean Valsa

Video Director

Nicki Carter

Greeter/Usher

Dick Strahs

Fellowship Hosts

The Obaras

The Speakers

Sunday School

George Zimmermann

N/A

CHURCH NEWS

TODAY: WE ARE ALL INVITED to celebrate Evelyn Heber's High School Graduation!

Graduation Party / Open House for Evelyn Heber

1 to 5 pm at Hebron Community Park

12314 Price Road, Hebron IL (corner of Price and Moraine roads)

FOR SERVICE



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We just need **ONE** more teacher for this fun summer tradition! Are you available on August 11?

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!

- Sunday, August 18

Outdoor Worship and Backpack Blessing

Bring your lawn chair for worship under the tent on the day after the Beef Roast.

And Pool and Dessert Party at George & Elise's home

Bring your swimming suit and a dessert to share to 9905 Falcon Dr, Richmond (just off of Hill Rd) as we wrap-up the summer with a pool party.

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF July 28, 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: Connie Runnfeldt (8/1)

Thanks for successful surgeries and healing of loved ones.

PRAYERS FOR:

Betty Waspi's son-in-law, Wayne Japp

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

Our country during this election season

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Rev. Ruth Costello

Mike Karch

Bill Haase

Henry Eickelberg

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are George Zimmermann and Elise Livingston.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Burr Ridge U.C.C. in Burr Ridge and their Pastor, the Rev. Alicia Reese.

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Betty Waspi

Beginning to Begin, a devotion by Mary Luti

“If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature; the old things passed away...” - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB 1995)

In the early church, some bishops believed that baptized Christians who committed Big Sins (like fraud, fornication, apostasy and murder) were not Christians at all. Baptism supposedly made you a totally new creature, so if you were still sinning like an old creature, something was badly wrong. So they excommunicated you, with no way back into the church.

Unsurprisingly, despite the tough penalties, the baptized kept on sinning, even though they weren't supposed to, didn't want to, and tried hard not to. It wasn't long before church leaders realized that a church composed of only the perfect was doomed to extinction.

They began re-thinking baptism. Instead of a one-shot transformation, they saw it as a life-long unfolding, a gift that re-creates us over time, a font of continual growth and change. And because people grow and change better in community than alone, they devised new rituals of pardon and reinstatement for all.

Christians still aren't perfect. None of us can stop sinning once and for all, even if we try to, even if we want to, even if we want to want to—not even the great St. Teresa of Avila.

She once came upon a moving image of the suffering Christ. Falling to her knees, she determined not to get up until he healed her moral carelessness, which she believed was wounding him. Some pious biographers claim she was totally converted on the spot. But Teresa knew better. She wrote, “From that moment on, I began to begin getting better.”

There's no perfection, instant or otherwise. There's only the good news that grace is in endless supply, that beginning to begin is a holy path, and that all the way to God is God.

Prayer

Help me to want to want to, O God, and to begin to begin. Amen.

The Rev. Mary Luti is a long time seminary educator, pastor, and author.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

right-teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

William Bradbury met great success by composing hymn tunes and religious songs in a lively, popular style. He also helped establish music programs in New York public schools, served a church, and co-founded a piano company.

Tune: SOLID ROCK L.M. with refrain
 William B. Bradbury, 1863

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

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Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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*Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)**From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.**St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807-1886)**John 10:1-29*

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten-der care;
 1 Ie-su no ke Ka-hu-hi-pa, Ka-hu-hi-pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al-ways seek your fa-vor; let us al-ways do your will;

in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
 Ei-a ma-kou ka'o-ha-na ke ho'o-lo-he a ha-hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
 Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859