

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 10, 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

Pastor Hope Molozaizy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG "All Creation"

Verse 1: **We come to You with a heart of thanks, for Your love,
to be a living sacrifice, brought with love.
We come to You with a heart of thanks, for Your love;
an offering of all we are, brought with love.**

Chorus: **All creation, looks to You.
All provision, comes from You.
In ev'ry sunrise, hope shines through.
For Your mercy, we thank You.**

Verse 2: **We come to You with a song of praise, for Your love,
the music of our soul's delight, brought with love.
We come to You with a song of praise, for Your love.
Sounds of joy and gratefulness, brought with love.**

Chorus

Tag: **We thank You, we thank You**

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER George Zimmermann

One: Be glad and rejoice, for God has done great things!
Our mouths are filled with laughter and shouts of joy!

**All: An abundant harvest surrounds us.
We will eat in plenty and be satisfied.**

One: Praise God for all the bounty we enjoy.
Give thanks for every good and perfect gift.

**All: We lay aside our worries and our fears.
God has dealt wondrously with us, and we rejoice!**

One: Let us pray.
Holy God, we come to worship in quiet expectation,

All: To this place of prayer, of worship, of dreaming.

One: We come to meet you through your Son, Jesus,
and to offer ourselves in your service.

**All: We are humble people, fragile and easily distracted.
Draw us near to you,
and help us return our focus to you.
Help us to offer all that we have to you,
for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.**

HYMN “God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale” #32

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

WORD FOR ALL AGES

*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 “Thank God”

**Thank God, thank God,
thanks in the morning, thanks in the noontime;
Thank God, thank God, thanks when the sun goes down.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 65:1-5

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.
Happy are those whom you choose
and bring near to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,

your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

The Prophet Joel 2:12-17, 27-29

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,

and relenting from punishment.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent

and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged;

gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar,

let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,

and do not make your heritage a mockery,

a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' ...

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel

and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

your old men shall dream dreams,

and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves,

in those days I will pour out my spirit.

MESSAGE Yet Even Now, We Turn

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Because you made the world,
and intended it to be a good place,
and called its people your children;
because, when things seemed at their worst,
you came in Christ to bring out the best in us;
so, gracious God, we gladly say:

**All: Goodness is stronger than evil,
love is stronger than hate,
light is stronger than darkness,
truth is stronger than lies.**

Leader: Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith;
because anger, tension, bitterness, and envy distort our
vision; because our minds sometimes worry small things
out of all proportion;
because we do not always get it right;
we want to believe:

All: (repeat response)

Leader: Because you have promised to hear us
and are able to change us,
and are willing to make our hearts your home,
we ask you to confront, control, forgive, and encourage us,
as you know best.

(pause)

Then let us cherish in our hearts that which we proclaim
with our lips:

All: (repeat response)

HYMN “Something Beautiful for God” see insert

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)

Giver of all things, take our offerings, humbly given.

Bless them and use them, so that your work will continue here and throughout your world. Amen.

*HYMN

“Great is Your Faithfulness”

#423

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Something Beautiful for God” chorus

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

call, Led by Love, by Lavon Baylor, permission of United Church Press, 1996, p. 164; other liturgy from Spill the Beans, Issue 21, pp. 21-22.

Affirmation of Faith by the Iona Community
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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

Liturgist

George Zimmermann

Video Director

Nicki Carter

Usher

Dick Strahs

Greeter

Cheryl Heber

Fellowship Hosts

Penny Kraft

Sunday School

Jean V.

Gail C & Jean V

November 17

Cheryl Kazimier

Mike Karch

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

Cabinet Meeting, Monday, 6:30pm via Zoom

Choir Practice, Wednesday, 7:00pm

Pr. Hope out of the office Wednesday–Monday (11/13-18)

Rev. Kathy Karch is guest preaching on November 17th

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE:

BUTTER BRAID FUND-RAISER: FINAL DAY TO ORDER!

The pastries like in Apple, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Cream Cheese, Raspberry, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, Carmel Rolls, and Cinnamon Rolls. They cost \$16 each and are great for the holidays. Delivery is Tuesday, November 19th from 4:30 – 5:00 PM. Don't forget to let your family and friends know about this delicious opportunity. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you would like your own online order site for family and friends to easily place their orders with payments, please let Karen Wootton know.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are needed for November and December.

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.

NEW SURVEY

Our congregation has been asked to take part in the national Faith Communities Today (FACT) Attender Survey. This survey is a part of the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) project and Faith Communities Today (FACT) research initiative in which the United Church of Christ participates. Since 2000, FACT has conducted research that provides religious leaders of all traditions with critical information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to respond effectively.

Any adult worship attendee is encouraged to complete the survey, which will take 10-15 minutes and simply asks questions about your worship attendance and spiritual practices. All answers are anonymous. When this national survey data has been compiled, we will receive a summary of our answers as well as the report explaining the national trends (and a \$200 Amazon gift card) - as long as at least 10 answers are submitted from our congregation.

The link to the survey itself is found here

https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwFw?congregation=12653

If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey, just reach out to Pastor Hope or the office and we can provide one for you.

The survey is open through November 22.

If you have other questions or concerns, contact Pastor Hope. We appreciate you considering giving your time to this interesting project.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS begin on November 10 during Sunday School time. Talk to Jean Valsa if you're interested in helping in any way. Our young people will offer the pageant in worship on December 15.

NATIVITY SETS WANTED

Our beautiful church is participating again this year in the Richmond Cocoa Walk on Saturday, December 7th from 10AM to 3PM, by offering a nativity scene tour inside the sanctuary in addition to warm drinks. Last year we had 197 visitors come through the church and the visitors marveled at the beauty and variety of the nativity scenes! It was a place of peace for them and many lingered, sipping cider and coloring the coloring sheets we had available. This year we will expand the coloring, crafting area because so many people loved it.

Do you have a nativity scene or two to share for this day? Please jot down some special notes about your nativity scene - like why it is special to you, where you got it, how old it is, your name, etc., any memories or comments about your set makes it more interesting. We'll set them up throughout the sanctuary. Contact Elise with questions or for details. We need the written descriptions by December 1st (you can email the descriptions any time before this) and the nativity scenes brought to church by December 5th. Please leave them in the Hollywood room with your name attached. We have museum putty to secure fragile figures to the tables and we will be as careful as possible!

We also invite you to share your musical talent during the cocoa walk - voice or instrumental, solo or group, and we would love any and all levels of expertise. You are welcome to perform for a single song or for a time. It will add so much beauty to the nativity scene display! Call/text or email Elise at 815-347-2807 or elise@eliselivingston.com .

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF November 10, 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: Lydia Blanton (11/10); Nicki Carter (11/12).

We are grateful for time to rest and restore, for improved health, and for the health of the greater church.

PRAYERS FOR:

Congregations without Pastors

Theresa Kaman's mother, Janis Voge

Sheryl Vezina

Carol Slighting's daughter and family

Joshua Canady, son of Jennifer Canady who cleans our building

Theresa Kaman's coworker's son, Travis

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Robert Richardson

Rev. Ruth Costello

Mike Karch

Bill Haase

Henry Eickelberg

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Bill and Sheryl Vezina.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Community Protestant U.C.C. in Mundelein and their Pastor, the Rev. Alex Molozaiy.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

I Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction)

G7 C Em Am Dm

Unison

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G 6 C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Something Beautiful For God

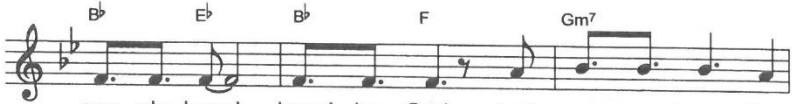
Bryan Sirchio



Verses: Know this one thing a - bove all else; we are loved,
Ev - ry - one who we meet to - day is God's child,
Je - sus will vis - it us to - day in dis - guise,



loved by God. Let this be how we see our - selves; as
God's own child. May our lives help them hear God say, you
in dis - guise. Poor and weak Christ will come our way.



peo - ple loved, loved by God. And once we know the
are my child, God's own child. A smile can ra - di -
Je - sus Christ in dis - guise. The lone - ly poor, the



love of Christ. Feel God's heal - ing in our lives.
ate God's love. Let them see the Christ in us.
vic - tim - ized. Love for them is love for Christ.



Lov - ing ser - vice is how we give our
Let our lives be the cheer - ful - ness of
Love is wa - ter to quench the thirst of



Chorus
love God back to God. To - day let us do some - thing
Christ in this world!
on the cross.

Something Beautiful For God, p.2

F B \flat E \flat B \flat
 beau - ti - ful for God. Do some - thing small, but

Cm E \flat F E \flat F B \flat
 do it with great love. Do what we can, where we are

E \flat E \flat Last time to Coda B \flat Coda
 with what we've got. To - day let us do some - thing

F 1., 2. B \flat C 3. B \flat D.S. al Coda C
 beau - ti - ful for God! God! To -

Coda F B \flat E \flat B \flat
 beau - ti - ful for God, to - day let us do some - thing

F B \flat E \flat B \flat
 beau - ti - ful for God! To - day let us do some - thing

F B \flat
 beau - ti - ful for God!

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your

hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!