

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

## United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Festival of Reign of Christ Sunday

November 24, 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 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

Leader: From seed to shoot,

**All: God's kingdom is coming.**

Leader: From shoot to branch,

**All: God's kingdom is coming.**

Leader: Rooted and growing,

**All: God's kingdom is coming.**

Leader: Flourishing, blossoming,

**All: God's kingdom draws near.**

Leader: With wisdom and might,

**All: God's kingdom draws near.**

Leader: With justice and mercy,

**All: God's kingdom draws near.**

Leader: With righteousness and faithfulness,

**All: God's kingdom is coming,  
God's kingdom draws near.**

Leader: Let us pray:

Giver of life, Nourisher, Nurturer,

for the good things you provide,

for the opportunities you offer, for the guidance you grant

**All: we praise you.**

Leader: Living Word, Encourager, Sustainer,

for the relationships you cultivate,

for the friendships you foster, for the faith you show in us

**All: we praise you.**

Leader: Protector, Defender, Guardian,

for the promises you keep,

for the hope you embody, for the love you lavish on us

**All: we praise you.**

Leader: Lord God, all these things and more

you are to us, you will for us, you dream for us.

Yet all too often your words fall

on the stony ground of our selfishness;

our good intentions wither in the glare of greed;

our labors are half-hearted and unproductive;

self-interest winds its way into our hearts

and we leave ourselves open to attack.

**All: Forgive us, Lord, for our poor harvest  
in the face of your generosity.**

**Refresh us.**

**Replant within us a yearning for you and a hunger for  
your world, where justice and fairness will grow and  
flourish.**

Leader: Restorer, Renewer, Healer,

may we leave here blessed,

may we go forth in peace, may we serve you in humility

**All: that our lives may praise you. Amen.**

**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

The Prophet Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and release to the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks;  
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines,  
but you shall be called priests of the Lord;  
you shall be named ministers of our God;  
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,  
and in their riches you shall glory.  
Because their shame was double

and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,  
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;  
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I, the Lord, love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my whole being shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

#### The Gospel according to Luke 4:16-20

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

MESSAGE      Is the Spirit of the Lord upon Us?

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Among the poor, among the proud,

Two: Among the persecuted, among the privileged,

One: Christ is coming.

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Two: In the private house, in the marketplace,  
One: In the wedding feast, in the courtroom,  
Two: Christ is coming.  
**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: With a gentle touch, with an angry touch,  
Two: with a clear conscience, with burning love,  
One: Christ is coming.  
**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Two: That the kingdom might come,  
One: that the world might believe,  
Two: that the powerful might stumble,  
One: that the humble might be raised,  
Two: Christ is coming.  
**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: Within us,  
Two: without us,  
One: among us,  
Two: before us,  
One: in this place,  
Two: in every place,  
One: for this time,  
Two: for all time,  
One: Christ is coming.  
**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

HYMN                      “Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”                      #303

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

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

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Lord God, our gifts may seem small in response to your goodness.**

**Our words may seem inadequate in the telling of your story.**

**Our hearts may not always be in the right place.**

**Yet we offer them all, for they are all we have.**

**Bless them and use them as only you can. In Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Now is the Time Approaching”

#609

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, opening prayer, dedication from Spill the Beans issue 16, p. 110-11; affirmation from [A Wee Worship Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Incarnation](#), Wild Goose Worship Group, 1999, p.19.

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## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

	<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	<b><u>December 1</u></b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	George Z.	Ron Obara
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Usher</b>	Dick Strahs	
<b>Greeter</b>	Cheryl Kazimier	Dawn C. & Mike K.
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	Lydia Blanton	Dawn C. & Mike K.
<b>Sunday School</b>	Gail C & Jean V	Gail C & Jean V

## **AT CHURCH THIS WEEK**

- Worship & Spiritual Growth Meeting Today
- No Choir Practice this Wednesday
- Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. Please join us after worship to decorate the sanctuary.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR SERVICE:**

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** are needed for December. Sign up in the lounge.

### **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.

### **DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS**

Next Sunday, December 1, stay briefly after worship to help “hang the greens.” We’ll bring the Christmas tree down from the attic and otherwise spruce up the place for the holy time of Advent.

### **HOLIDAY GIFT CARD ORDER**

The final gift card order for 2024 will be placed on December 16th so cards can be distributed before Christmas and money can be collected so that those payments are posted to our account before the end of the year!

## **NATIVITY SETS WANTED & OTHER HOT COCOA WALK HELP**

The church will again be a stop on the Richmond Hot Cocoa Walk, Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM to 3PM. We'll offer beautiful nativity sets in the sanctuary and hot apple cider and a quiet place to be in the lounge. Last year nearly 200 people came through our doors during this event. Elise Livingston is our event coordinator and here's how we can help it be another great success.

Here's how you can help:

1. Loan us a nativity set (or several). Elise will set them up beautifully and carefully in the sanctuary for our neighbors to enjoy.
  - If we used your nativity set last year, we already have a description of it. If not, please provide a brief note of why this set is meaningful to you, where you got, or other interesting details. Don't forget to leave us your name with your nativities!
  - Nativity sets can be placed in the small Sunday school across from the upstairs restroom any time between now and December 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. Help Elise set up the sanctuary on Friday, December 6. Talk to her for times.
3. Be a greeter during the Cocoa Walk. We need friendly church folks to welcome visitors and help them enjoy themselves while there here. We expect to be busier after noon than in the morning. Can you be here for an hour or two? Let Elise know.
4. Provide some holiday music. Vocal or instrumental, solo or group, all levels of expertise are welcome. You can perform a song or an hour.

You can contact Elise at 815-347-2807 or

[elise@eliselivingston.com](mailto:elise@eliselivingston.com).

You can also see the signup sheet in the lounge and decide where you can help out! Thank you!



**FOR CONNECTION**

**THANKSGIVING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Everyone is invited to Faith First Congregational UCC at 624 Park St. in Genoa City at 6pm on Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 27) for a service of thanks and praise led by their pastor, Nicole Werth.

**ADVENT PARTY** –Wednesday, December 4, 5:00-7:00pm. We'll share a soup supper, make some Advent and Christmas crafts, and sing carols together. Everyone of every age is welcome to join us for all or part of the evening. Please sign up TODAY if you plan to attend. We will provide soup and others are welcome to bring bread, crackers, or cookies to share, or just bring yourself.

**ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Advent devotionals and Advent calendars for adults and children will be available next Sunday. Additionally, would you like your own Advent wreath at home? Let Pastor Hope know and we can supply you with the items, including either electric or wax candles to light throughout the season.

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER:**

If you are the last to leave the building, please be sure that all doors are locked and all lights are turned off in the area you have been. We have been finding some lights on when we arrive on Monday morning. Thank you!!

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF November 24, 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: Ruth Kaman (11/27); Kenneth Kazimier (11/28).

We are grateful for the gift of music, specifically Theresa's theater performance, for the blessing of grandchildren, and for God's goodness.

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Bob Jooss  
Theresa Kaman's mother, Janis Voge  
Sheryl Vezina  
Carol Sligting's daughter and family

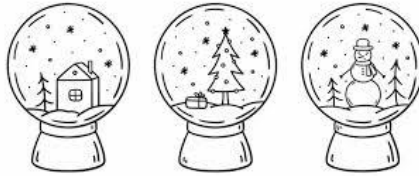
### **Ongoing Prayers:**

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 Karen and Joseph Wootton.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Naperville as they are in a time of transition.

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



## DECEMBER 2024

1 <i>Advent 1</i> Christmas Family Gift Collecting Begins	2	3	4 Choir Practice 7:00	5 Advent Party 5-7	6	7 Cocoa Walk, 10:00am- 3:00pm
8 <i>Advent 2</i> Poinsettia Orders Due	9 Cabinet Meeting 6:30	10 Missions Mtg 1:30 Blood Drive 3:30-7:30	11 Choir Practice 7:00	12	13	14 Men's Club  Pageant Rehearsal, TBD
15 <i>Advent 3</i>  Pageant	16	17	18 Choir Practice 7:00	19	20	21 Choir Practice
22 <i>Advent 4</i> Choir Celebration Sunday	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 8:00pm	25	26	27	28
29 Pajama Sunday  Men Sing	30 Pastor Out of Town thru 1/2	31				

## **See You in the Morning**

Jesus said to them, “In this world you will have trouble. But do not be afraid. I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33 (adapted)

If you’ve ever put a child to bed, you’ll recognize this drill: Read story, say prayers, position bunny, plant kiss, turn off lights, tiptoe out. Kid whimpers, “Monsters.” Lights back on. Look under the bed. Confident voice: “Nope, no monsters. Sweet dreams. See you in the morning.”

It’s a charming game, but every now and then it scares you more than it scares them. You realize they have it right.

There are monsters under the bed, children just don’t know their names. But you do: drugs, cancer, racism, bullying, terrorism, molestation, family breakup, accidents. They might be idle now, but they won’t always stay put.

And when that dawns on you, your calm authority on the matter of monsters seems more irrational than their fears. You’re promising safety you can’t deliver.

And yet we still say it, night after night: “See you in the morning.” Even knowing what we know, we turn off the light. Knowing what we know, we leave them there in the dark.

This is faith: to offer tomorrow to a child when you can’t be certain morning will come. To calm fears with firm assurances when your confidence is no match for what’s under the bed. To turn off the light and go, knowing what you know.

This is faith: to trust that in the menace of life, when you yourself are terrified, Christ is in the room—“I have overcome the world. See you in the morning.”

Prayer: When the lights are out, reassure my own anxious heart, and give me faith to promise the world the safety I can’t deliver, but you can.

*Author Mary Luti is a seminary educator, pastor, author, and founding member of The Daughters of Abraham.*

## Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.

St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

*Descant*

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

*This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.*

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

George J. Elvey, 1858

Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931

and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;  
 all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,  
 and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;  
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,  
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,  
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

## Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

*Phil. 4:4; Rev. 3:7; 19:6-7**Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.*

1 Re - joice, give thanks and sing; your Sov - reign God a - dore!  
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 Christ Je - sus can - not fail to rule both earth and heaven;  
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,

For Christ has robbed death's sting and tri - umphs ev - er - more. Lift  
 The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power a - bove. Lift  
 The keys of death and hell are to the Sav - ior given. Lift  
 And take the faith - ful up to their e - ter - nal home. We

up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.  
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.  
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.  
 soon shall hear a heaven - ly voice a - bove the trum - pet's sound, "Re - joice!"

*This Ascension text, one of the festival hymns by Charles Wesley, was published originally in John Wesley's Moral and Sacred Poems (1744). Somewhat altered, it appeared in this familiar version in Charles' 1746 collection, Hymns for Our Lord's Resurrection.*

Tune: DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.  
*John Darwall, 1770*

## Now Is the Time Approaching

609

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.

Jer. 33:14-16; Isa. 11:6-9; 61:11

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph-ets long fore - told,  
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,  
 3 O long - ex - pect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.  
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.  
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,  
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,  
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.  
 a clos - er bond of un - ion, in bless - ed lands of love.  
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick's text titled "Anticipation of Heaven" was published in her *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* (1859). George J. Webb, American organist and music publisher, originally wrote this music for a secular song, "Tis dawn, the lark is singing."

Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D.  
 George J. Webb, 1837