

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

## United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 1, 2024

10:00 A.M.

A Service for Rest and Healing

*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 Molozaai

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG “Come to Me”

Verse 1: **All who are weary, all who are burdened down**

**Come to me, come to me, come to me**

**And I will give you rest** (*repeat*)

Verse 2: **My yoke is easy, my burden feels so light**

**Come to me, come to me, come to me**

**And I will give you rest** (*repeat*)

Repeat first verse

Tag: **Come to me, come to me, come to me.**

**And I will give you rest**

Words and Music by: Christopher Grundy, CCLI 1908882

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Speaker

One: Jesus said: “If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens,  
come to me and I will give you rest.

Take the yoke I give you.

Put it on your shoulders and learn from me.

I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest.

This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.”

**All: Christ calls us to come to worship  
to rest from the things that are troubling us;  
to receive what Christ can teach of life;  
to realize what we can offer to others;  
and so to return into the world to serve.  
Let us worship God together.**

One: Let us pray.  
Worker God,  
whose hands built the earth,  
molded our bodies,  
and sowed the stars across the sky,  
we gather in your presence this morning  
with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds.

**All: Meet us here, Worker God;  
strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you  
in the building of a world filled with justice and  
peace. Amen.**

HYMN

“Not my Brother, Nor my Sister”

#519

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

WORD FOR ALL AGES

*The children are invited to the front of the church at this time.  
Afterward, they can remain with their families for worship.*

SONG RESPONSE “Jesus Loves Me”

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Time of Silent Prayer

Shared Prayer of Confession

**All: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our  
being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins,  
and whose mercy we forget in the hardness of our hearts,  
cleanse us, we pray, from our offences.  
Deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires.  
May we draw near to you with humble hearts,  
and trust you to be our refuge and our strength,  
through Jesus Christ, our merciful Savior. Amen.**

Moment of Quiet

Assurance of Pardon

One: Good news! If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, forgiving us from our all our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness so we might begin anew.

Children of God, receive the news that we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

We Sing:

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 145, Responsive reading. See page 718 of the hymnal.

The congregation will read the even verses responsively.

2 Kings 5:1,9-15

Sing in response

**It's me, it's me, it's me, O God**

**Standing in the need of prayer**

Repeat

Matthew 8:1-4

Sing in response **It's me, it's me...**

Repeat

Matthew 8:5-13

Sing in response **It's me, it's me...**

Repeat

Matthew 8:14-17

Sing in response **It's me, it's me...**

Repeat

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

MEDITATION

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kim May

TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

HYMN

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

#553

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give praise and thanks to you, O God!  
In Jesus Christ, you have given us life;  
brought forward ministry, forgiveness, healing, and peace;  
commanded your disciples to heal the sick;  
and continued your healing ministry among us to this day.  
Keep us ever mindful of your love and mercy,  
that we may be faithful throughout all our days.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, amen.**

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)

**Almighty God, you lived among us so we might have abundant life.  
By your might, we are healed to serve.  
With your care, we receive abundant blessings.  
By your grace, we return these gifts to you,  
that your healing and hope might spread beyond us.  
Amen.**

\*HYMN "O Grant us, God, a Little Space" #516

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 the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand, <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>;  
opening prayer, [http://www.ucc.org/justice\\_worker-justice\\_labor-sunday\\_worship-  
resources#liturgy](http://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_labor-sunday_worship-resources#liturgy).; dedication, H. Molozai. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

	<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	<b><u>September 8</u></b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Kathy Speaker	Nicki Carter
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Greeter/Usher</b>	Dick Strahs	
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>		
<b>Sunday School</b>	n/a	Gail Crutcher

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR CONNECTION**

#### **FELLOWSHIP & STUDY OPPORTUNITY!**

Fanning a flame makes it brighter, stronger and hotter. Fellowship and Bible study are ways we can fan the flame of our faith.

Join Katie Anderson-Tedder for four cozy Tuesdays of fellowship and bible study beginning Sept. 3.

Each week the group will gather in the Lounge at 6:30 p.m. and meet for about an hour around a "fire." We'll spend time examining the many ways the concept of fire is used in the Bible and talk about how these ideas manifest in our lives. Join us for all four sessions or just the ones you can make. All are welcome.

Questions? Contact Katie at 815-347-0378

**THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE WOMEN'S RETREAT** is October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center in Princeton, IL. Pastor Hope will attend and has attended many years in the past as well as several other church members. This year we'll explore the theme of **Enough** as mentioned in the Bible and how it affects our lives – Enough already! Am I Enough? What is Enough? and much more. There will be Enough time to unwind, study the Bible in experiential ways, get to know one another, work on a service project, take a walk around the beautiful grounds of Pilgrim Park, and even take a nap.

If you're curious about attending, talk to Pastor Hope. It is also possible to attend on Saturday only if that works better for your schedule. Pilgrim Park is about 2.25 hours from Richmond. Financial assistance is available.

**CHURCH FAMILY OUTING TO RICHARDSON ADVENTURE FARM**

**SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 22, 2024, 3 p.m.**

Rob and Carol Richardson have graciously donated a campfire/picnic site and corn maze entrance for our church family to hang out and explore! We are asking for a \$10/per person donation that will go to church. Also, we'll share an early dinner, roasting hot dogs. We will supply paper goods, etc. Please, sign up to bring something to share. The sign-up sheet is in the lounge.

Please remember that while the Adventure Farm is fun for all, this event is only for the Community Church, not extended family or friends. Thanks.

Golf cart rides to the campfire site are available to those who are uncomfortable walking.

**FOR SERVICE**

**A NEW YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins September 8<sup>th</sup>! We're excited to grow with the children of the church through this new year, which will include a new middle school Sunday school class! We ask for members of the church to take turns teaching our younger children, generally asking one person, or pair, to take one month of teaching. That's usually 3-4 weeks at a time. We provide a well-scripted and easy to follow curriculum. If you might be interested in trying your hand at teaching our lovely church kids, talk to Jean Valsa or Pastor Hope or sign up on the clipboard in the lounge.

**DO YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL SUMMER FLOWERS?** Please consider sharing them with the congregation. Let Jonathan Kaman know when you would like to bring them in to put on the altar. If you would like to order flowers, please contact Jonathan at 815-347-5035

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF September 1, 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: Jonathan Kaman (9/1); Carol Richardson (9/2); Libby Valsa (9/4); Jim Speaker (9/6).

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Pastor Hope's friend, Timoth  
Theresa Kaman's friend, Cheryl  
Penny and Jim Kraft's friend, Brian  
Mike Anderson  
George and Elise's neighbor, Makayla  
Nicki Carter's friend, Annie Stolger  
Betty Waspi's son-in-law, Wayne Japp  
Robert Richardson

### **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 Rob and Carol Richardson.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Community Congregational U.C.C. in Elburn and their Pastor, the Rev. David Fraccaro.

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

## Selah

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah." – Psalm 46:11 (NRSV)

My child is at an age where they love to categorize things in order of favorites. What's your favorite color/song/artist/pair of shoes, etc. they ask. A lot. And I don't think of things this way anymore, so that's rough on me to answer. But one day, they asked a question I was ready to answer!

"What's your favorite word in the Bible?"

And this one was easy. It's: Selah.

Selah is a curious, beautiful word that we find throughout the Psalms. It's somewhat challenging to pinpoint a very clear definition of this word, Selah. But here's where I've landed:

Selah is a liturgical instruction. You see, the Psalms were read in community, again and again, to do what the Lord commanded: write these instructions on my heart. The Psalms write some instructions on our hearts. They give us a map for where to go. They give us language for worship that we can hear and say, on repeat, in the sanctuary, to take home and remember when we need them.

And whenever the Psalm instructed: Selah? That meant, take a moment. Take a moment to give praise to the One who makes all things possible. Take a moment to remember God and to lift your head to the skies. Take a moment because you can't do this on your own, nor do you have to. Take a moment because our God will not leave or forsake you. Selah. Your God deserves this time. Selah. You need this time. Selah. God is your refuge and strength. Selah. God is your help. Selah.

Let this moment of devotion inspire a moment for or to: Selah.

Prayer:

Take your praise break. Give glory to God. Selah throughout the day and watch your spirit: rise. Selah.

-Kaji Douša



# Not My Brother, nor My Sister

(Standing in the Need of Prayer)

*African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Leader*

1 Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's me, O God,  
 2 Not the preach - er, nor the dea - con, but it's me, O God,  
 3 Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's me, O God,  
 4 Not the strang - er, nor my neigh - bor, but it's me, O God,

*All* *Leader*

stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's  
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not the preach - er, nor the dea - con, but it's  
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's  
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not the strang - er, nor my neigh - bor, but it's

*All* *Refrain*

me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.  
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer. It's  
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.  
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

me, it's me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer;  
 it's me,

*James Weldon Johnson included this African-American spiritual in his historic collection of 1925, The Book of American Negro Spirituals. It was popularized by Mahalia Jackson, who specialized in such spirituals when she began her public singing career.*

Tune: NEED OF PRAYER 13.7.13.7. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*

PRAYER

It's me, it's me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note chord of G4 and B4, and a quarter note chord of G4 and B4. The melody continues with a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, and a quarter note G5. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords of G4-B4, A4-C5, B4-D5, and C5-E5. The piece concludes with a final chord of G4-B4.

553

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

## Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

## Last time, end

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

## to Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling spiritually washed down by

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain  
African-American spiritual

# O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

516

*John Ellerton, 1870; alt.*



- 1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
- 2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
- 3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;
- 4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
- 5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.  
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.  
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.  
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.  
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.



*John Ellerton's hymn, written for a noonday service in a city church, is one of the earliest to speak of science and art as part of God's creation. Thomas Este was a famous English printer and music publisher.*

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD C.M.  
*Este's Whole Book of Psalmes, 1592*