

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Our Mission: **To be an inviting, caring faith community
connecting with Christ.**

Welcome, visitors! Our greeters have welcome bags to share with you, so please make sure they know you are visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

Sharing of joys and concerns

GATHERING SONG “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Verse: **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You, I want to see You;**

Repeat Verse

Chorus: **To see You high and lifted up,
shining in the light of Your glory;
Pour out Your pow'r and love,
as we sing holy, holy, holy.**

Bridge: **Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy;
I want to see You. (repeat)**

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER George Zimmermann

One: The spirit of God calls us from many places:
some of us come from busy homes with many people,
some of us live alone.

All: We are a part of the family.

One: This week has been different for each of us:
some of us have good news we want to celebrate,
some of us have grief and need to cry.

All: We are members of God's family.

One: Yet we all come to this same place:
all of us seeking God's presence in our lives,
all of us seeking God's presence within each other.

All: Together we become God's family.

One: Let us pray.
We are glad to gather as your family, loving God:

**All: ready to worship, longing to love,
willing to let your way work through our lives.**

One: We pray that in our worship we hear and heed your word:

**All: ready to change ourselves so we can grow
into more faithful followers of Jesus.**

One: We are glad to gather for worship and then to scatter for
service:

**All: fortified in faith, nourished in fellowship, sustained by
the Spirit.
Amen.**

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection"

#245

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Men's Chorus

THE CHANCEL STEPS

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

SONG RESPONSE "Halle, Halle, Halle"

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 97:1-6

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples behold his glory.

Acts 1:1-14

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

MESSAGE

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

"This is a Day of New Beginnings"

#417

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)

Faithful God, as we give what we can of our time, talents, and treasure, may we rededicate our lives to your Way. Use us and these gifts to your service. Amen.

*HYMN "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"

#257

verses 1 & 2

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "May How We Live Give Praise to You"

See handout

call, The Rev. Katy Hawker, liturgyoutside.net; opening prayer & dedication, Spill the Beans, Issue 18, p. 80, 81; Music shared under CCLI #1908882

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

April 21

Liturgist

George Zimmermann

Cheryl Kazimier

Video Director

Greeter/Usher

Dick Strahs

Fellowship Hosts

Vezinas

Conley-Kennedy

Sunday School

Gail Crutcher

Gail Crutcher

Youth Sunday School Elise Livingston

Elise Livingston

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Wider Missions Meeting, Tuesday, 1:30pm
- Blood Drive, Tuesday, 3:30-7:30pm
- Small Group Meeting, Thursday, 6:30pm

CHURCH NEWS

FOR SERVICE

BLOOD DRIVE:

Our spring blood drive is coming up, and our goal is 22 blood products. This Tuesday, April 16, 3:30-7:30. See Carol Richardson with any questions.

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive at www.raiseright.com/brands . Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or mriapk@gmail.com or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled “GIFT CARDS” in the upper hallway.

Gift Card App

We can now also support this fundraiser through the RaiseRight app with your smartphone. Gift cards for many places are available digitally for you to purchase and then use right away at the store you’re shopping in or the restaurant you’re eating at! Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly. Penny Kraft, Ronnie Obara, and Kathy Speaker are all very familiar with using the app and can help you get started if you’re interested.

BASKETS FOR SPRING TEA NEEDED:

Dawn Conley is putting together baskets for the Silent Auction at this year’s Spring Tea. She is looking for donations of a basket, money for a basket, or donations of a favorite place or item (i.e.: Cubs tickets, gift card to Bath & Body Shop, etc.) and she will make a basket for that. Even though it is time for spring cleaning, we ask that you not supply a basket with your old things, but rather newly purchased items.

As always, thank you for your giving! You can reach Dawn at 815-236-5982.

FOR CONNECTION

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY! We continue to study our Christian identity together on Thursday evenings at 6:30 here at the church. We are currently in week three of a four week group, but you are still welcome to join us!

CABINET UPDATE

The Church Cabinet met on Monday for our regular monthly meeting; here are a few highlights from our discussion:

- We see many good things happening in the church lately with a good number of visitors, new opportunities like the April Bible study and the youth Sunday school class beginning, and the hard work of people like Mike Kennedy and Karen Wootton making the spring fundraisers happen. (Don't forget to support their efforts however you can!)
- We ended March with just over \$27,000 in the operating fund, and about \$94,000 in our combined, non-endowment funds. March financials had a significant downturn with a couple large expenses and a slight decrease in giving. Positive news is that pledged giving is at 23% at the end of the first quarter, so great work on keeping up with that giving! We hope that our May fundraisers will be successful and give us a small boost.
- We are tentatively planning to hold the 2024 Beef Roast on August 17.
- We received \$439 for One Great Hour of Sharing in March! Thanks to all who supported this wider cause.

We'll meet next at 6:30 on May 13, on Zoom.



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF RICHMOND
PLANT SALE**

Saturday, May 11, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Donations needed—hostas, coneflowers, daylilies,
and other perennials.

Help is also needed on the day of the sale!

Contact **Mike Kennedy** with questions
815-528-0127 or mjkdesigns5@yahoo.com

**Stop by for a great selection of perennials, vegetables and
potted planters!**

2024 1st Annual Spring Garden Tea



**Sunday, May 19, 1-4 PM
at Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva**

\$75 Ticket includes: Tea Luncheon
Silent Auctions
Harpist Annette Bjorling
Storyteller Lynn Rymarz

Ticket Sales begin on April 21
See **Karen Wootton** for more information
815-271-0056

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF April 14, 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:

Thanks for the wonderful Celebration of Hope with Exodus World Service.

Thanks for the current bible study.

SYMPATHIES to Sheryl and Bill Vezina on the passing of Sheryl's brother, Bart Parrish.

PRAYERS FOR:

Mary Ann Keil

Pastor Hope's mother-in-law, Joan Molozaiky

Theresa Kamen's grandmother's health

Charles Kemp's niece's safe arrival

Families affected by Maryland bridge collapse

Ode & Mary Ann Keil's brother-in-law, Robert Tobler

Debbie Franzone's daughter-in-law, Rebecca

Betty Waspi's relative, Nancy

The Anderson's family friend, Gail Ripka

Bill Haase

Ongoing Prayers:

Henry Eickelberg

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Rob Richardson's brother, Dale

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Jeremy Crutcher and Dayton.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at Faith Community U.C.C. in Prairie Grove and their Pastor, the Rev. Peg Faulmann.

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

The Day of Resurrection

245

John of Damascus, 8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;
From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad-ness blend,
our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn.

John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.

Henry T. Smart, 1836

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8,
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

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Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

*Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 9:11-14**William C. Dix, 1867; alt.*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Gra - cious Je - sus! Yours the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing

scep - ter, yours the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the
 left in sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! You are
 earth our food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 can dis - rupt your reign; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!
 near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful flee to you from day to day.
 Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered,

thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus, out of
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
 earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, and the songs that
 tend - ing those we count the least, serv - ing both as

ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.
 get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
 sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.
 Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

William C. Dix, manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted writer who made a significant contribution to hymnody. This hymn was written to fill a need for communion hymns in Church of England hymnals.

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906