

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

Our Church at Worship on the Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 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 "Come, Now is the Time"

Chorus: **Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come**

Verse: **One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now**

Repeat Chorus

© 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Vineyard Music UK) Brian Doerksen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rob Richardson

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O God, forever.

**All: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

One: Let people of all ages bring praise to God:

**All: in the laughter of children,  
the questioning of youth,  
the determination of younger adults,  
the experience of middle years,  
and the wisdom of elders.**

One: We will sing of your steadfast love, O God, forever.

**All: With our mouths we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

HYMN

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

#303

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us confess our sin against God and against each other.

**All: Merciful God, we know that you love us  
and that you call us to fullness of life,  
but around us and within us  
we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways.  
Our successes leave us empty;  
our progress does not satisfy.  
Our prosperous land is not  
the promised land of our longing.  
Forgive our willful neglect of your word,  
our insensitivity to the needs of others,  
and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, amen.**

#### Quiet Moment

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins  
and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

**People: Amen. Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins  
and has promised to bring you everlasting life.**

Leader: Amen.

### **WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

#### THE CHANCEL STEPS

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

The Gospel according to Mark 9:33-37

Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever

wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

MESSAGE      The Blessings of a Messy Story

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

SONG            “May How We Live Give Praise to You”            insert

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Servant God, as you have blessed us, we are eager to share.  
May our offerings serve to preserve abundant life to your  
children, nearby and wherever our influence can reach.  
What is in the offering plate is only part  
of how we dedicate ourselves to do and be  
in your reign of peace. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Table & Communion Prayer

Leader: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

Leader: This table is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The prayer continues...*

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.**

Remembering the Story

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*Each tray of bread also holds gluten free crackers; we serve grape juice rather than wine so that all people may share in this meal. Please hold the bread and the juice until all are served so we all may partake together.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (we say together)

**Almighty God,  
we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence  
in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.  
Unite us with all who are fed by Christ  
that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love  
and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope  
in an uncertain world;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “May How We Live Give Praise to You”

Chorus: **Holy One, what can we give back to you?**

**Holy One, may how we live give praise to you!**

**May how we live give praise to you!**

**May how we live give praise to you!**

Words and Music: Brian Sirchio, © Crosswind Music, Used by permission

Call, Chalice Worship, #113; confession, UCC Book of Worship; dedication, adp from Lavon Baylor, Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A, 1998, p. 133.

Music shared under CCLI #1908882

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

**May 12**

**Liturgist**

Rob Richardson

Elise Livingston

**Video Director**

Nicki Carter

**Greeter/Usher**

Dick Strahs

**Fellowship Hosts**

Speakers

Tedders

**Sunday School**

N/A

Nicki Carter

**Communion Prep**

Jonathan Kaman and Elise Livingston

**CHURCH NEWS**

**FOR SERVICE**

**FOOD COLLECTION** May 12th-May 26th, join the Wider Missions Ministry in collecting food items for the 5th Annual Operation Dropbox. The food will go to Veterans Path to Hope in Crystal Lake (Formally TLS Veterans). A collection basket will be in front of the sanctuary for your donations. Veterans Path to Hope offers housing and employment assistance, transitional living, basic needs including food/furniture/household goods, peer support activities, caregiver training, and counseling. Thank you for your support!

**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.

**COIN CHALLENGE UPDATE!**

The first week of our challenge, we raised \$93.00. Keep digging in your couch cushions for change!

These totals are based on currency "taking down" your opponents count. COINS make your totals go up for your section.

West: \$14.06  
Broadway: 12.31  
Choir: 6.63



**DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?**

Please let us know by May 15, so that we can join you in celebrating them. Please include their full name, relationship to you, the school they’re graduating from, and degree (if applicable).





**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](mailto:mjkdesigns5@yahoo.com)

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

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*2024 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Tickets on Sale Now!

Scan this code, visit  
[richmonducc.org/spring-tea](http://richmonducc.org/spring-tea)  
or contact Karen directly.



See **Karen Wootton** for more information, 815-271-0056

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF May 5, 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: Rob Richardson (5/6).

We are thankful for family, and for Lydia's new job. We celebrate with the May family on the occasion of Zach's Fulbright Award.

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Annabelle Ortiz

Deann Workmon

Deann Workmon's grandson, Thatcher Guilfoyle

Pastor Ruth Costello

Theresa Kamen's friend's mother, Shelly

Michael Johnston's nephew, Joseph

Dawn Conley's daughter, Kelly

Jan Revelle

Mike Karch

Mary Ann Keil

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

Theresa Kamen's grandmother, Maria

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Bill Haase

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 Grace Haskins.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John's UCC in Union, and their Pastor, the Rev. Steve Welker.

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