



May 3, 2020 at 9:30am - 4th Sunday of Easter
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://www.youtube.com/richfieldumc)



(bold = in unison)

ENTRANCE

Gathering Music "This Is Peace" by Holly Near
Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher
Song "[As a Fire Is Meant for Burning](#)" by Ruth Duck
Prayer of Confession Rev. Hope Hutchison

God of Glory and Life, we rejoice in your evergreen love and perennial wisdom.
When we are in weakness, you search our hearts and minds by your blessed Spirit.
We confess we are eager to work with you to do your work
to care for kin across your kingdom.
We confess we are hoping the work can pass us by,
our selfish desires to take center stage.
Forgive us and bring us comfort that we may be the Body of Christ,
redeemed and prepared to be the hands and feet of Jesus.
Hear now our silent prayer of confession...

Words of Assurance

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet each other with a touch-free sign of peace.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture

[Acts of the Apostles 23:1-11](#) (NRSV)

While Paul was looking intently at the council he said, “Brothers, up to this day I have lived my life with a clear conscience before God.” Then the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near him to strike him on the mouth. At this Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting there to judge me according to the law, and yet in violation of the law you order me to be struck?” Those standing nearby said, “Do you dare to insult God’s high priest?” And Paul said, “I did not realize, brothers, that he was high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a leader of your people.’”

When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees, he called out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead.” When he said this, a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.) Then a great clamor arose, and certain scribes of the Pharisees’ group stood up and contended, “We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?” When the dissension became violent, the tribune, fearing that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered the soldiers to go down, take him by force, and bring him into the barracks.

That night the Lord stood near him and said, “Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.”

Scripture

[Romans 8:18-30](#) (NRSV)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Sermon

“Every Pain I Ache”

Rev. Nate Melcher

THANKSGIVING

Sacrament of Communion

The LORD's Prayer

Our God, 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.

Receiving the Sacrament

*There is no barrier between you and the table.
All who seek the grace of Jesus are welcome.*

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings, and Ourselves

*Your gift today at richfieldumc.org/give supports the ministry,
outreach, and operations of Richfield UMC, and thank you.*

Music for Communion and Offering Our Gifts

Song [“One Bread, One Body”](#) by John Foley

Prayer After Receiving the Sacrament

SENDING FORTH

Song [“What a Wonderful World”](#) by Weiss and Thield

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

Benediction

...And until we meet again, let us live...
in faith, justice, and joy! Amen.

Travelling Music [“Stand By Me”](#) by Ben E. King



Thank you for worshiping as Richfield United Methodist Church.
We hope you had a good experience. Stay safe, strong, and connected.

Livestream Worship: youtube.com/richfieldumc
richfieldumc.org | [Richfield UMC on Facebook](#)
Get on the email list: richfieldumc.org/signup

Online Worship Team:

Musicians: Greg Locke (guitar), Rev. Melcher (ukulele),
Devin Olson (bass), Victor Zupanc (vocals/piano)

Liturgy: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: TY Moore, Dale Olson

Your Guide to Online Worship as Richfield United Methodist Church		
<p>Check-In Help your church track online worship trends, thank you. richfieldumc.org/hereiam</p>	<p>Make Your Gift Your generosity helps your church reach your neighbors. richfieldumc.org/give</p>	<p>For Children Families can get fun, faithful resources for children. richfieldumc.org/children</p>
<p>Worship Bulletins View, download, or print a bulletin to fully participate. richfieldumc.org/bulletins</p>	<p>NRSV Holy Bible Read the New Revised Standard Version for free. biblegateway.com</p>	<p>United Methodist Hymnals Get music and lyrics to sing: hymnary.org/hymnal/umh hymnary.org/hymnal/tfws</p>
<p>Conflux Candles Be careful as you light your candle or lamp during worship. richfieldumc.org/candles</p>	<p>Holy Communion This sacrament for all people is celebrated online on 1st Sundays. richfieldumc.org/worship</p>	<p>Feedback Your loving feedback about online worship is appreciated. nmelcher@richfieldumc.org</p>

Community Joys and Concerns

Today and throughout this week you are invited to pray for:

- People in need of a loving church.
- Openness to the “conflux moments” of experiencing God.
- The spiritual journey of our fellow MCCI church, First UMC Austin.
- Our church’s elected leadership and paid and unpaid servants.
- Our community partners such as VEAP and Beacon Interfaith Housing.
- Our state of Minnesota as we enter the next phase of how we operate.
- Our elected and appointed officials to not be comfortable with other people’s deaths and to implement life-saving policies and relief systems.
- Those suffering especially through systems of racism and oppression that amplify their suffering during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The global “hot spots” where there is war-like violence and conflict.
- The lonely, the isolated, and the tired.
- Glimpses of resurrection!
- The children.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marybeth Stull, Maxene Schwanke, James Wegscheid, Olive Saldana, Marylee Fithian, Joyce Walls, Inez Gustafson, Bonnie Freese, Bill T., relative of Michele Wegscheid, Sandra Williams and Sharon Morrow.

Prayers for Comfort:

Jan Hansen, Gunilla Arlinger, Fern Albertson’s Swedish sister, and all those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

The families and friends of Marilyn Sampson who died on April 24. Service arrangements pending.

Announcements - Be Part of Designing Worship:

We want you to help design worship for the coming weeks ahead. Please look to these three “Call to Action” opportunities and submit your ideas and content to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org. Watch the deadlines, and thanks!

1. **Hymn Requests:** Submit your hymn/song idea for the “All Request” Sunday on May 17. Email Pastor Nate by TODAY!
2. **Faith Questions:** Submit your question(s) about God, faith, church, and life for our summer worship series, “So Many Questions!” We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome. Email Pastor Nate by May 10.
3. **The LORD’s Prayer:** Submit a video of you reciting The LORD’s Prayer we can use in worship on May 24. Email Pastor Nate by May 17.
4. **Pentecost Prayers:** Submit your 1-2 sentence conflux moment to be read in worship for Pentecost Sunday on May 31. Email Pastor Nate by May 24.

Announcements - Community Connections:

- Brené Brown Study, Saturdays, 10:30am. Contact [Gail Johnson](#).
- Women’s Bible Study, Tuesdays at 9:30am. Contact [Molly Recko](#).
- Men’s Bible Study, Wednesdays at 9:00am. Contact [Kent Johnson](#).
- **NEW:** Men’s Support Group, Saturdays at 8:30am. Contact [Kent Johnson](#).
- Children’s Ministry, original public content and invitation-only curriculum due to copyright. Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#).
- Youth Group, Sundays and Wednesdays. Contact [Garrett Johnson](#).
- Pastor Care, by phone or electronically. Contact [Kay Bergeland](#).
- “Camp Meetings” Live Variety Show with Rev. Nate Melcher, music, comedy, and guests, Wednesdays at 8:30pm at [Facebook Live](#) (if we have tech difficulties, we’ll switch over to [YouTube](#), thank you!). This week’s guest is Rev. Jim Wallis of *Sojourners* to discuss social justice issues amplified during pandemic.
- Please keep reaching out to one another, it matters!

Announcements - Campus and Administration:

- In-person worship and gatherings are suspended through May 31.
- Campus is closed on Sundays and Saturdays until further notice.
- God’s Hands is closed until further notice. No donations at this time, thank you.
- The office is closed on Mondays-Fridays at least through May 8. You can still reach out by phone and also to paid staff by email.
- Caring for Children Early Learning Center has a limited number of openings for families with essential workers. Contact [Catherine Mahler](#).
- If you have church communications needs, contact [Linda Schmidt](#).
- Your generous giving matters for your church in these unprecedented times. Please give online at richfieldumc.org/give or contact [Kathy Gertsema](#).

Permissions:

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