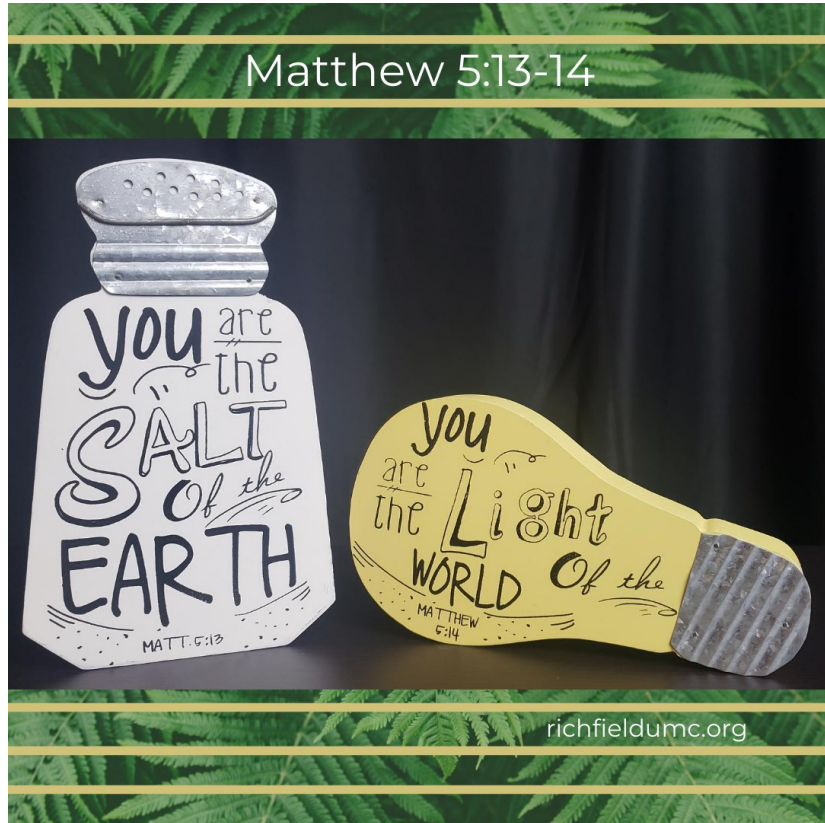




September 20, 2020 at 9:30am - 16th Sunday after Pentecost
youtube.com/richfieldumc



(bold = in unison)

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Praise to the Lord”

by J. S. Bach

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

What we have seen of God today affects the way we live our lives tomorrow.

We know there is happiness found in obeying God’s commands.

We give freely to those in need, breaking the yokes of injustice.

May we let our light shine in the darkness for Jesus.

May this light break out like the dawn and our strength increase daily.

May God’s righteousness stand forever.

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well and teach us to fashion, lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Centering Prayer

God of justice and mercy, we come before you today. We come to seek you. We desire knowledge of your ways. We want to be close to you. We come to call on you and to hear you answer. We long to know that you are here with us. May we honor you not only with our lips but with our hearts. May we honor you not only here in this place but in every place you send us. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through to each of us.
Unite us in your vision, equip us for your work.
Transform us by your song, create our harmony.
May we embrace your future, and be your loving church. Amen.

Please join your church in praying the Breakthrough Prayer daily at 8:35.

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

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

Please greet your neighbor with a sign of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

*You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate
the moments this week where your life's journey met God's heart.*

Celebration of Music

“This Little Light of Mine”
Gretta Thorson, Paige Armstrong
Scott Clarke, and Brad Gardner

arr. by John Helgen

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:6-10

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a
lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the
house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good
works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Light Rising in the Darkness”
Episcopal Address to the Minnesota Annual Conference
“More Than This” Worship Series

Bishop Bruce R. Ough

Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings, and Ourselves

*Your gift by mail, phone, or through the secure online portal at richfieldumc.org/give
supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.*

Thank you for your extravagant generosity.

Offertory

“Sometimes a Light Surprises”
Paige Armstrong, soloist

by C. Courtney

Doxology

UMH No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Gratitude

Knowing God, you have given us a never-wanting future. Yet, we often forget the nature of your divine gift. We become entangled in the snares of self-centeredness. Today, we joyfully share these many offerings as a way to release ourselves from being self-focused to being God-focused. In the name of your loving Son, we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the precious moments in which we felt you close to us this week. Continue to break through to each of us with your Holy Spirit and reveal your amazing love to as many people as possible. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

TFWS No. 2190
by Marty Haugen

Leader: You are salt for the earth, O people:

All: Salt for the Kingdom of God!

Leader: Share the flavor of life, O people:

All: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain - **All: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

Leader: You are a light on the hill, O people:

All: Light for the City of God!

Leader: Shine so holy and bright, O people:

All: Shine for the Kingdom of God! Refrain

Leader: You are a seed of the Word, O people:

All: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!

Leader: Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,

All: Grow in the Kingdom of God! Refrain

Leader: We are a blest and a pilgrim people:

All: Bound for the Kingdom of God!

Leader: Love our journey and love our homeland:

All: Love is the Kingdom of God! Refrain

Benediction

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

Postlude

“Rondo in G”

by J. Bull



Thank you for worshiping as Richfield United Methodist Church.
We hope you had a good experience. Worship is over. Service begins.

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

Worship Team:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Paige Armstrong, Nancy Dierauer, Gretta Thorson, Scott Clarke, Brad Gardner

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Dale Olson

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

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.
- Our church’s journey through MCCI to launch our next life cycle.
- Our church’s elected leadership and paid and unpaid servants.
- The children, teenagers, and adults of this church who are here and are yet to arrive.
- All who face inequities, poverty, loneliness, racism, complex family systems, toxic politics, and all the other pressing issues that are being amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Each student beginning a fresh adventure with their new school year.
- Each teacher, staff person, administrator, and family member who needs support and whom is supporting beloved students going back to school in ways we have never operated before.
- Everyone facing natural disasters such as wildfires, tropical storms and hurricanes, and other concerns sprouting from the realities of climate change, and our will to change our ways to protect our siblings in Christ around the planet.
- The “hot spots” around the world in need of the soothing touch of the Holy Spirit.
- The children.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marybeth Stull, James Wegscheid, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Bev Crandall, Margaret Kersteter, Elaine Peterson, Maxene Schwanke, Liam B., neighbor of Michele Wegscheid, John Darling, and Phyllis Killam.

Prayers for Comfort:

Jan Hansen, Hans Olson, father of Dale Olson, and all those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

Laurel Lien and her family in the passing of her nephew, David.

Announcements - Community Connections:

- **Today: CAFÉ-O-RAMA**
at 10:45 online by Zoom (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Meeting ID: 843-4704-2137, Passcode: 5835
Due to its popularity this summer, Café-O-Rama returns this fall and is now twice a month. After worship, hop on the video call for a relaxed, inviting opportunity to spend time with new and old friends. It's like coffee in The Commons...except you bring your own coffee!
- **Early Bird Bible Study - Mondays, Beginning Tomorrow, Sept. 21 at 8:05 am online by Zoom**
Meeting ID: 896-7653-5596, Passcode: 5835
Join Pastor Nate and your fellow early riser church friends to read and discuss the sermon scripture passage for the upcoming worship service. This is a "drop-in" study, which means no pre-reading necessary and the "attendance rule" is if you're available, you show up.
- **Anti Racism Online Book Discussion Begins Tomorrow, Monday, September 21**
"I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown
Mondays at 7:00 pm, Sept. 21 to Oct. 26 online by Zoom
An eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals. This is an open virtual group. Join us when you can. Contact Gail Johnson (gailjohnson417@gmail.com or 612-250-1736) for Zoom information.
- **Blessing of the Animals Sunday, September 27** online at the 9:30 am worship service. **Send a photo of you with your pet by Sunday, September 20** to Linda Schmidt: ldelph@richfieldumc.org
- Brené Brown Study, Saturdays, 10:30 am. Contact [Gail Johnson](#).
- Early Bird Bible Study, Mondays at 8:05 am. Contact [Rev. Nate Melcher](#).
- Women's Bible Study, Tuesdays at 9:30 am. Contact [Molly Reko](#).
- Men's Bible Study, Wednesdays at 9:00 am. Contact [Kent Johnson](#).
- Men's Support Group, Saturdays at 8:30 am. Contact [Kent Johnson](#).
- Children's Ministry, public and sign-up content. Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#).
- Youth Group, various content throughout the summer. Contact [Garrett Johnson](#).
- Pastor Care, by phone or electronically. Contact [Kay Bergeland](#).
- Friends and family who aren't online can listen to worship live by touchtone phone. Call toll-free at 1.888.650.5835. "Press 1" to opt-in to receive an automatic call on Sundays as worship begins.
- Please keep reaching out to one another, it matters!

Announcements - Campus and Administration:

- In-person worship and gatherings in the building are suspended through 2020 and we continue on an open-ended timeline. Read the latest statements at richfieldumc.org/statements.
- Campus is closed until further notice, thank you.
- God's Hands is closed until further notice. No donations at this time, thank you.
- You can still reach out by phone and also to paid staff by email.
- 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](#).

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