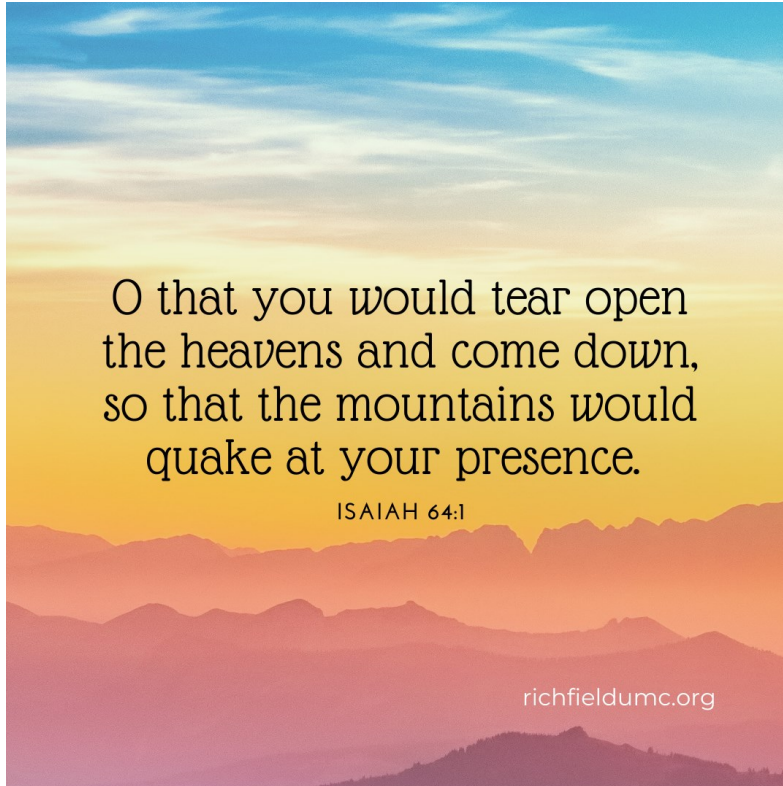




November 29, 2020 at 9:30am - First Sunday of Advent
youtube.com/richfieldumc



ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“Emmanuel (Hope of Heaven)”

by Jeff Pardo, Seth Condrey, Steve Fee

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Rev. Hope Hutchison

You alone, O Lord, are God!
Come down, O God!
You have done wonderful things in the past.
Come down, O God!
We need you here with us now.
Come down, O God!
We wait for you.
We wait with hope.

Gathering Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UM Hymnal #211

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2. **O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.** *Refrain*

Centering Prayer

Garrett Johnson

O God, come to us in our need. Like a shepherd, you care for us. Like a potter, you shape our lives. Faithful God, we are waiting for you. Come down to us. Come down to use as fire, and burn away the bonds that hold us back. Light our spirits with your eternal love. Shape us with your hands, that we may be vessels fit to receive your presence. We are waiting, Holy One, and place our trust in your love. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

Gertie Melcher

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

Bea Melcher

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.

Lighting the Advent Wreath I: The Candle of Hope

The Olson Family
(John, Andi, Noelle, and Nick)

Celebration Music

“People Look East” French carol/words: Eleanor Farjeon

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

NRSV

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Creator;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Heart of Hope”
“Heart of the Holy” Worship Series

Rev. Nate Melcher

Prayers of the People

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

“Best to Enter My House”

by Victor Zupanc

Prayer of Gratitude

During this season of waiting and anticipation, we are reminded to stay awake for the coming of your Son. Jesus’ love often comes into our lives in quiet, unexpected ways. Today, we generously respond to this compassion and commit ourselves to living in a manner worthy of your love. In anticipation of the coming of Jesus, the Savior, 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

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UM Hymnal #196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“Make Room”

by Mark Mall, Matt Maher



Thank you for worshipping 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: Greg Locke, Devon Olson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Garrett Johnson, Bea Melcher, Gertie Melcher,
Rev. Nate Melcher, The Olson Family

Tech Crew: TY Moore (sound), Rev. Bill Johnson and Dale Olson (video), Rev. Nate Melcher (editing)

Online Hospitality: Sara Watne

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

You are invited to devote time and energy to God and neighbor every day to pray for:

- Open minds and hearts for “conflux moments.” May all experience God in their lives.
- People in need of a loving church home. May they be embraced as beloved children of God.
- Our fellow MCCI church, Camphor Memorial UMC. May the Spirit break through.
- Children near and far, all beloved of God. May all be shown safety, stability, and care.
- People facing the brokenness of inequities, poverty, loneliness, racism, toxic politics, complex family systems, and other pressing challenges amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. May all who do justice and love mercy rise up as active, partnered signs of God’s healing love.
- Our church’s people, elected leaders, paid staff, and partners. May the Spirit break through.
- Ourselves in this moment here and now. May we feel God’s creativity, Jesus’s hope, and the Holy Spirit’s call in our struggles, our celebrations, and our whole lives.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marybeth Stull, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Falk, Sharon Keen's sister-in-law, Barb Rogers, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Elizabeth Runge, Klaus Runge, Becca Whitaker, Agnes Danzl, Jack Exline, Russ Ruona, Robert McCoy, Steve Restemayer, Sue Restemayer, and Helen Restemayer.

Prayers for Comfort:

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

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- Sandra Overland and loved ones as they grieve the death of Sandra’s mother, Marilyn Overland. Read Marilyn’s [obituary here](#). Read a letter Sandra wrote to the Star Tribune [here](#).
- The family and friends of Norma Luettinger who passed away on November 12. A private family service was held Monday, November 23. Read Norma’s [obituary here](#).
- Sandy Nelson and the family and friends of Rev. Jim Nelson. Rev. Nelson passed away last weekend. A memorial service will be at a later date. Read Jim’s [obituary here](#).
- Jack Exline and the family and friends of Jeanne Exline who passed away last weekend. A memorial will be at a later date. Please respect Jack’s privacy and only contact him by email at this time. Read Jeanne’s [obituary here](#).

Worship Online

In-person worship and gatherings in the building are suspended through 2020 and we continue on an open-ended timeline. Read the latest information at richfieldumc.org/statements.

Campus and Administration

Campus is closed, including God’s Hands Thrift Store (no donations as this time, thank you).

Church staff is available by email or phone

[Rev. Nate Melcher](#), Senior Pastor | 612.399.6272

[Rev. Hope Bentley Hutchison](#), Director of Children and Family Ministries | 626.261.1429

[Catherine Mahler](#), Caring For Children Director

[Garrett Johnson](#), Youth Leader

[Pat Noonan](#), Facilities Coordinator

[Nancy Dierauer](#), Organist / Music Director

[Kay Bergeland RN](#), Parish Nurse

[Paige Armstrong-Hetterick](#), Chancel Choir Director

[Victor Zupanc](#), Living Waters Worship Coordinator

[Kathy Gertsema](#), Business and Administration Coordinator

[Linda Schmidt](#), Program and Communications Coordinator

Connect as Richfield UMC

All gatherings happen through Zoom online video conferencing unless otherwise noted.

Today

8:00 pm | Youth Group
Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

Next Sunday, December 6

10:45 am | CAFÉ-O-RAMA
Meeting ID: 843-4704-2137, Passcode: 5835
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! CAFÉ-O-RAMA is held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Upcoming

A Service of Hope and Healing
Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00pm
youtube.com/richfieldumc

You are invited to a time of music, reflection, and release centered on the spirituality of hope and the practice of healing.

Lunch and Learn Online Series

Musical Memories at Christmas

Thursday, December 10th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Meeting ID: 813 2660 1056 , Passcode: 5835
To participate by phone, call 1-312-626-6799.
Music is synonymous with Advent and Christmas. In fact, it's difficult to imagine some of our most treasured memories of this time of year without the presence of music! Join us as we welcome singers from MPLS (imPulse), a local choral ensemble whose mission is to re-imagine the traditional choir through creative collaborations and narrative style programming. These gifted vocalists will lead us in singing and share stories from their most treasured musical memories at Christmas and Advent.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 13, 9:30 am

We have a variety of roles for children of all ages, and we are looking forward to this creative worship experience that allows our children to lead us in remembering the story of Jesus' birth, and in celebrating the Advent season. If you have any questions, or would be interested in helping with this, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

Winter Gear Drive for Fond du Lac reservation children runs through Dec. 18. Learn more at twincitieslogistics.org/material-support.

Ongoing and Open

Mondays at 7:00 pm, Through Dec. 14 |
Advent Book Study: Love Is the Way
Meeting ID: 6122501736, No password required
"Love is The Way" by Bishop Michael Curry

Continued ➤

Tuesdays, 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study
Contact [Molly Reko](#) to get connected.

Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study
Contact [Kent Johnson](#) to get connected.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group
Contact [Kent Johnson](#) to get connected.

Saturdays, 10:30 am | Brené Brown Study
Contact [Gail Johnson](#) to get connected.



Check-In

Help your church track online worship trends, thank you. richfieldumc.org/hereiam



Worship by Touch Tone Phone

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.



Latest from Richfield UMC

Weekly announcements, events, worship preparation, and reflection, [sign up](#).



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is available from the clergy team, Parish Nurse, and care ministry volunteers. You don't have to go through times of sickness, loneliness, or hurt alone. If you need prayer or other pastoral care, please contact [Kay Bergeland](#).

Worshipping from Home

Prepare your worship space with care and delight.

Download or print a bulletin and safely light a candle or lamp.
Find more tips at richfieldumc.org/live.

Your generous gift

supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church. richfieldumc.org/give

Livestream Troubleshooting: Try refreshing the page, restarting your device or the YouTube app, using a different web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.), clearing your browser cache, or adjusting your settings (ex: lower your resolution quality from 1080p HD to 720p HD).

For more help, reach out:
worshiptech@richfieldumc.org.

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