



A Worship Service of Hope and Healing  
December 9, 2020 at 7:00pm  
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc)



How great your faithfulness!  
I'm sticking with God  
(I say it over and over).  
He's all I've got left.

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

richfieldumc.org

(bold = in unison)

## ENTER

Prelude

“Mary Did You Know”

by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

## CENTER

Scripture

Psalm 13

Rev. Hope Hutchison

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?  
Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,  
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";  
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.  
But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Hope & Healing #1

Stone

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
vs. 1-3

UM Hymnal No. 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer

"When I Have a Hole of Loss in My Heart"  
by Rev. Arianne Braithwaite Lehn

from *Ash & Starlight*

## REFLECT

Scripture

Psalm 23

NRSV

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

Hope & Healing #2

Flame

Hymn

“Night of Silence”  
vs. 1-3

by Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life,  
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,  
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,  
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,  
Fire of hope is our only warmth,  
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,  
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light,  
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,  
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,  
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,  
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,  
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,  
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,  
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,  
Star unknowing of night and day,  
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

Prayer

“When I’m Grieving a Goodbye”  
by Rev. Arianne Braithwaite Lehn

from *Ash & Starlight*

## LAMENT

Scripture

Lamentations 3:1-24

*The Message*

I’m the man who has seen trouble,  
trouble coming from the lash of God’s anger.  
He took me by the hand and walked me  
into pitch-black darkness.  
Yes, he’s given me the back of his hand  
over and over and over again.  
He turned me into a scarecrow  
of skin and bones, then broke the bones.  
He hemmed me in, ganged up on me,  
poured on the trouble and hard times.  
He locked me up in deep darkness,  
like a corpse nailed inside a coffin.  
He shuts me in so I’ll never get out,  
manacles my hands, shackles my feet.  
Even when I cry out and plead for help,  
he locks up my prayers and throws away the key.  
He sets up blockades with quarried limestone.  
He’s got me cornered.  
He’s a prowling bear tracking me down,  
a lion in hiding ready to pounce.  
He knocked me from the path and ripped me to pieces.  
When he finished, there was nothing left of me.  
He took out his bow and arrows  
and used me for target practice.  
He shot me in the stomach  
with arrows from his quiver.  
Everyone took me for a joke,  
made me the butt of their mocking ballads.  
He forced rotten, stinking food down my throat,  
bloated me with vile drinks.  
He ground my face into the gravel.  
He pounded me into the mud.

I gave up on life altogether.  
 I've forgotten what the good life is like.  
 I said to myself, "This is it. I'm finished.  
 GOD is a lost cause."  
 I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness,  
 the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed.  
 I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—  
 the feeling of hitting the bottom.  
 But there's one other thing I remember,  
 and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:  
 GOD's loyal love couldn't have run out,  
 his merciful love couldn't have dried up.  
 They're created new every morning.  
 How great your faithfulness!  
 I'm sticking with GOD (I say it over and over).  
 He's all I've got left.

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

NRSV

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Sermon

"The Heart of Healing"  
 "Heart of the Holy" Worship Series

Rev. Nate Melcher

Hope & Healing #3

Water

Sending Hymn

"Silent Night"  
 vs. 1-3

UM Hymnal No. 239

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
 round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
 glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
 Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
 radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, the Lord, at thy birth.**

## TRAVEL

Benediction

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

Postlude

"The Prayer"

by Foster and Sager

## We are here for you

This has been a year of great loss for many of us: loss of a loved one, loss of health, loss of a relationship, loss of a job, loss of security. These losses, along with their accompanying grief, can make it difficult to feel the joy of the season. The pastoral staff of RUMC cares about you and are always available for support and prayer through phone conversations and emails. Please reach out if you would like to talk or have a time of prayer.

Rev. Nate Melcher at [nmelcher@richfieldumc.org](mailto:nmelcher@richfieldumc.org) or cellphone: 612-399-6272

Rev. Hope Hutchison at [hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org) or cellphone: 626-261-1429

Parish Nurse Kay Bergeland at [kbergeladn@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeladn@richfieldumc.org) or cellphone: 952-465-9875



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

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### Worship Team:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Devon Olson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison and Rev. Nate Melcher

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

### Permissions and Acknowledgements

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