



December 20, 2020 at 9:30am - Fourth Sunday of Advent
youtube.com/richfieldumc



**† WILL SING OF YOUR STEADFAST LOVE, O LORD,
FOREVER; WITH MY MOUTH † WILL PROCLAIM
YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS.**

PSALM 89:1

richfieldumc.org

ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“Christmas Concerto”

by A. Corelli

I. Vivace II. Allegro III. Adagio-Allegro-Adagio
IV. Vivace V. Allegro VI. Largo, pastorale ad libitum
String Quartet

Welcome and Lighting Our Conflux Candles

Rev. Nate Melcher

*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 III: The Candle of Joy

Bumgarner Family

Time with Children

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Lighting the Advent Wreath IV: The Candle of Faith

Neuger Family

2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
 With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;
 he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
 and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

First Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Buerkley Owens

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Carol

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
 Paige Armstrong, soloist

arr. L. Larson

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-5

Mitchell Wilson

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Carol

“Some Children See Him”
 Paige Armstrong, soloist

by Alfred Burt

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Noah Dewey

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

“Do You Hear What I Hear”
Virtual Chancel Choir

arr. H. Simeone

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
listen to what I say
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:6-9

Devin Teal

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn

“O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines”
Paige Armstrong, cantor

UM Hymnal No. 729

**O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.**

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

London Owens

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

by Rory Cooney

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-12

Brennan Currie

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Carol

“The Little Road to Bethlehem”

by M. Head

Paige Armstrong, Gretta Thorsen, Tiffany Holt trio

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:13-20

Gertie and Bea Melcher

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

Luke 2:15-20

Asher Teal

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UM Hymnal No. 238

vs. 1-3

(ring a bell on the refrain)

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Kenzie Lambert

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Duet

"The Three Kings"
Paige Armstrong and Brad Gardner

arr. Peter Cornelius

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-4

Maya Olson

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Carol

"The Word Was God"
SABT Quartet

by Rosaphani Powell

Sermon

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

Rev. Nate Melcher

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:
'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'" *Selah*

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:
"I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.
I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.
I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.
He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

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

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

by J. Goss/arr. D. Wilcocks

1. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

2. Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim! *Refrain*
3. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Savior's birth." *Refrain*
4. Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine;
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! *Refrain*
5. Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble Thee in Thy sweet humility. *Refrain*

Benediction

And until we meet again...

...let us live in faith, justice, and joy! Amen.

Postlude

“In Dulci Jubilo”

by J. S. Bach



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, Scott Clarke (tenor), Nancy Dierauer, Brad Gardner (bass), Tiffany Holt (soprano), Gretta Thorsen (alto) and the virtual Chancel Choir

Instrumentalists: Ginny Bennett (viola), Rachel Jensen (violin), Carolyn Liptak (violin), Pat Norton (cello)

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison and Rev. Nate Melcher

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

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, First UMC, in Windom. 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 of Celebration:

Gratitude for the many musicians, readers, and technicians who made this week’s lessons and carols possible!

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, Becca Whitaker, Agnes Danzl, Jack Exline, Dick Novak, Linda Novak, Ruth Davis, and John Meeker.

Prayers for Comfort:

All those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

Dale Olson and family in the death of Dale’s father, Hans Olson.

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, December 20

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.

POSTPONED: Christmas Caroling scheduled for today, Dec. 20 is postponed due to safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding.

7:00 pm-8:30 pm | Youth Group Zoom Christmas Party

Christmas related games/trivia/activities. Fun and safe by social distancing. Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm | Family Worship

9:00 pm | Traditional Worship

Online at youtube.com/richfieldumc and by touch tone phone: 1.888.650.5835.

Both services are intended for all ages and feature the same sermon and end with singing "Silent Night." They each have a different atmosphere and musicians, and the Family Worship has elements specifically designed for young children to experience the Nativity story at their level. You're welcome to experience both services.

Ongoing and Open

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.

Note: No Brené Brown Study on Dec. 26

Upcoming

**New Worship Series Begins January 3, 2021
ORIGIN, OWNERSHIP, & ONWARD**

We'll recognize what has made us into who we are today, acknowledge we can live the life God wants for us, and move forward as beloved children of God into the future.

DOC-O-RAMA: [God In America](#)

**Sundays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7
7:00pm-8:30pm**

Meeting ID: 857-7778-2442 Passcode: 5835
Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)
Join Pastor Nate to watch and discuss [God in America](#) a 6-part documentary on the origins of organized religion in North America.



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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