



December 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve
youtube.com/richfieldumc



(bold = in unison)

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|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Prelude | “What Child Is This” Joe Cruz, guitar and Jennifer Grimm, soloist | Trad. |
| Welcome | | Rev. Nate Melcher |
| Lighting of the Christ Candle | | Klosinski Family |
| Gathering Song | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Joe Cruz and Jennifer Grimm | UM Hymnal No. 234 |
| Christmas Prayer | | Rev. Hope Hutchison |

Glorious God, in the beauty of holiness we await the coming of your Son. A people who walked in the shadow have seen a great light. Through the seed of David and nurtured in the womb of Mary, you sent a glorious hope to break forth upon the horizon. The light of truth pierces all that is untrue. The light of justice breaks through the clouds of injustice. The light of mercy outshines the shadow of despair. In the stillness we await your Light, Holy God - that Light is Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Creator, the Prince of Peace! Come, Lord Jesus, come. We have made room for you. Hear us as we pray your 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.

Hymn

"He Is Born"

UM Hymnal No. 228

Refrain:

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.

1. Thru long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last! *Refrain*
2. O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure
gracious gift to humankind! *Refrain*

Time with Children: Shadow Box Theater

Sharing the Story

Isaiah 9:2-7

NRSV

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:1-7

NRSV

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.

Song

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Joe Cruz and Jennifer Grimm

UM Hymnal No. 230

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:8-14

NRSV

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." 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 he favors!”

Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High” UM Hymnal No. 238
vs. 1-2
(ring a bell during 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*

Sharing the Story Luke 2:15-20 NRSV

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.

Song “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” UM Hymnal No. 218
Joe Cruz and Jennifer Grimm

Sermon “Memey Christmas” Rev. Nate Melcher
“Heart of the Holy” Worship Series

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings, and Ourselves

This year’s special Christmas Eve offering supports the “Just Love” fund of the Minnesota Annual Conference to undergird local United Methodist ministries on the frontlines of racial justice and mercy; the Gloria Roach Thomas & Leroy Thomas Educational Scholarship Fund of Camphor Memorial UMC to close the racial achievement gap in higher education; and the technology ministries of Richfield UMC to establish a new direction forward in front of the camera and behind the scenes. 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.

Solo “O Holy Night” by Adolphe Adam
Jennifer Grimm, soloist

Doxology Refrain, “Angels We Have Heard on High” UM Hymnal No. 238

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Prayer of Gratitude

Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with these monetary gifts. We know that everything in this world is a gift from you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion of these gifts to you. We pray that these gifts may help

this church to change people's lives and to spread your message of salvation. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray. Amen.

Sharing the Light

If you are lighting candles with others be sure to hold the lit candle straight up and tip the unlit candle toward it for safety.

Song "Away in a Manger" UM Hymnal No. 217
Joe Cruz and Jennifer Grimm

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" UM Hymnal No. 239

1. 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.
3. 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.
4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord all the earth.

Declare God's glory among the nations; declare God's wonderful works among all peoples.

The Lord is great and greatly to be praised. The Lord who created heaven and earth.

Declare God's glory among the nations; declare God's wondrous works among all peoples.

Bring gifts to the God of gods; enter God's courtyard with exultations.

Declare God's glory among the nations; declare God's wondrous works among all peoples.

The Lord rules with fairness and equity. Even the trees of the earth rejoice at God's judgment.

Hallelujah! The Lord establishes justice. Hallelujah! The Lord has brought justice to all!

And until we meet again...

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

Postlude "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" 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: Joe Cruz and Jennifer Grimm, Nancy Dierauer

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 churches. 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:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

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, Agnes Danzl, Jack Exline, Dick Novak, Linda Novak, Ruth Davis, John Meeker, Sara Watne’s sisters, Hope and Lora, and Rexi Warner’s friend, Heidi.

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.
- Dan Bur and family in the death of Dan’s father, Don Bur.

Worship Online

In-person worship and gatherings in the building are suspended 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.

Sunday, December 27

Worship at 9:30 am

The District Superintendents are preaching.
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://www.youtube.com/richfieldumc)

Sunday, January 3

**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.

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.

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 and others to watch and discuss [God in America](#) a 6-part documentary that dives into the origins of organized religion in North America.

Monday, January 4

Book Study: How To Be An Antiracist

Mondays, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8
7:00pm

Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546, No Passcode needed
Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)
Ibram X. Kendi's breakthrough bestseller, [How to Be an Antiracist](#), has become the unofficial "required reading" for all seeking racial reconciliation in this nation.
To RSVP, please contact Gail Johnson:
gailjohnson417@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 10

10:45 am | Children's Sunday School

Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#)

8:00 pm | Youth Group

Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

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



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](#).

Worshiping 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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