



December 24, 2020 at 9:00 pm - Christmas Eve  
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc)



Prelude

“The Shepherds’ Farewell”  
“Pastorale” (from: “Messiah”)  
String Quartet

(bold = in unison)

by H. Berlioz  
by G. F. Handel

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Lighting the Christ Candle

Al and Molly Reko

Sharing the Story

Isaiah 9:2-7

NRSV

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

## 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*
3. Jesus, Lord of all the world,  
coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the world,  
grant to us thy heavenly peace. *Refrain*

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.

Solo

“O Holy Night”  
Paige Armstrong, soloist

by A. Adam

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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UM Hymnal No. 240

1. **Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"**
2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"**
3. **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"**

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.

Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"  
vs. 1-3  
(Ring a bell during the refrain)

UM Hymnal No. 238

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*

Sermon

"Memey Christmas"  
"Heart of the Holy" Worship Series

Rev. Nate Melcher

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](http://richfieldumc.org/give) supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.*

*Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

"Behold the Marvel of this Night"  
Virtual Chancel Choir

by Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;  
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
sing love; sing love; sing God is love; sing love; sing God is love!

**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.*

### 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

"Silent Night"

arr. C. Ore



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

#### Your generous gift

supports the ministry, outreach, and operations  
of your church. [richfieldumc.org/give](https://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](mailto:worshiptech@richfieldumc.org).

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