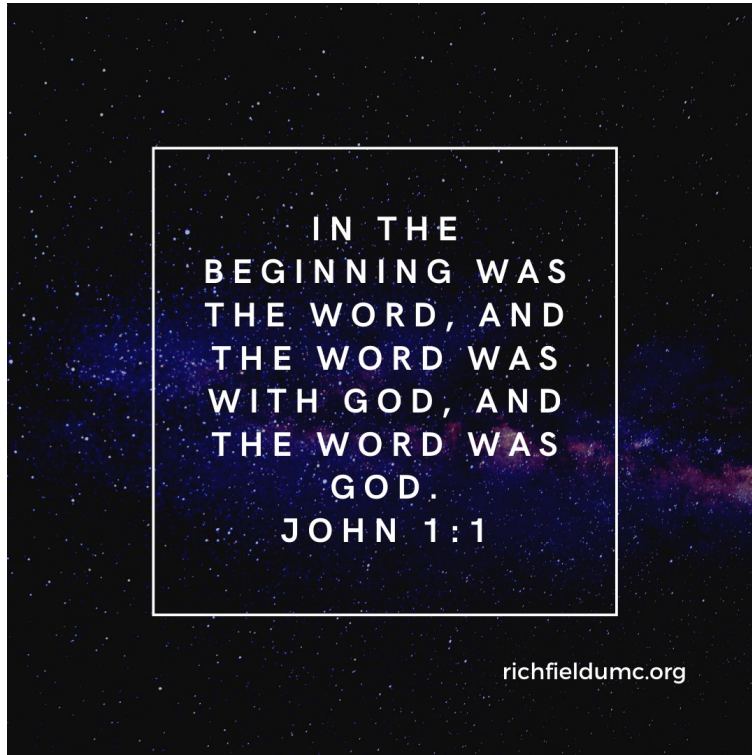




January 3, 2021 at 9:30am - Epiphany Sunday
youtube.com/richfieldumc



ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“We Three Kings”

arr. P. Manz

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Arise; shine, for your light has come!

We are called out of our darkness into light!

Lift up your eyes and look around.

We rejoice in the gift of light.

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.

Gathering Hymn

“We Three Kings”
vs. 1, 2, 5

UM Hymnal #254

1. **We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

2. **Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Refrain**

5. **Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. Refrain**

Prayer of Confession

Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick shadow. We stumble around, bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and genocide, injustice and oppression. The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the shadow, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us to be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the shadow places of our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us. Hear us now in our silent confession to you...

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

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.

Celebration Music

"There Upon a Manger Bed"
Paige Armstrong and Brad Gardner, duet

by G. F. Handel

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14

NRSV

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

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. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

Introducing Bishop David Alan Bard

Sermon

"Step by Step, Grace Upon Grace"
 "Origin, Ownership, & Onward" Worship Series

Bishop David Alan Bard

THANKSGIVING

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Faith We Sing Hymnal No. 2257-a

You are invited to gather elements for Holy Communion with care and delight.

The LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the LORD.

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Receiving the Sacrament

There is no barrier between you and the table. All who seek the grace of Jesus are welcome.

Music During Communion

"The Kings"
 Paige Armstrong and Brad Gardner, duet

by Peter Cornelius

Prayer After Receiving the Sacrament

Breakthrough Prayer

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.

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

“Joy to the World”
vs. 1-3

UM Hymnal #246

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

by M. Drischner



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, Nancy Dierauer, Brad Gardner
Liturgists: Bishop David Alan Bard and Rev. Nate Melcher
Tech Crew: TY Moore and Dale Olson

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 church’s MCCI journey. May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2021. This week we pray for: Adrian UMC, Advent UMC (Eagan), Aitkin UMC, Akeley UMC, Albert Lea UMC, Alden UMC, Aldersgate UMC (St Louis Park), Alexandria UMC, Amboy UMC (Vernon Center), Annandale UMC
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2021. This week we pray for: Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, Alaska Annual Conference, Arkansas Annual Conference, Austria Provisional Annual Conference
- 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, 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.

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, January 3

New Worship Series Begins

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.

Tomorrow, 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.

Next 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.

Church Conference Sun., Jan. 31, 10:45 am

Meeting ID: 875-9045-5078, Passcode: 5835
Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)
There will be a church conference after worship to receive reports and vote on the 2021 budget.



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.

Permissions and Acknowledgements

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