



January 31, 2021 at 9:30am  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc)



## ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“In Thee Is Gladness”

by J. S. Bach

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Garrett Johnson

The Wisdom of God calls us to gather:

**To learn from Love’s teachers, ancient and new.**

The Wisdom of God is a companion in discernment:

**Our guide through eras painful and distressing.**

In community, we seek the knowledge of heaven, that we might:

**Be delivered from evil.**

**Comfort and be comforted.**

**Practice lasting transformation.**

With hope, let us welcome the wisdom of God.

"Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!" cried God's healing Holy One.  
 "Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it; flee as night before the sun."  
 At Christ's words the demon trembled, from its victim madly rushed,  
 while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder, stunned and hushed.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit in our mind and in our heart;  
 speak your word that when we hear it, all our demons shall depart.  
 Clear our thought and calm our feeling; still the fractured, warring soul.  
 By the power of your healing make us faithful, true, and whole.

## Centering Prayer

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Delivering One, with humility, we pray for your guidance. In so many ways, we have been taught to seek wisdom in people and places resistant to your love that liberates. Authority has been handed out according to power and privilege. And yet, we know Christ does not seek the spotlight, fit the norm, nor climb ladders of success. May your Spirit help us to perceive trustworthy sources of your teaching for these days. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

## 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.*

## 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

“Lord of the Small”  
 Paige Armstrong, soloist

by D. Forrest

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

NRSV

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Sermon

"How We Suffer & How We Heal"  
"Origin, Ownership, & Onward" Worship Series 5 of 7

Rev. Nate Melcher

Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,  
**hear our 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.**

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings, and Ourselves

*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

"Bridge Over Troubled Water"  
Victor Zupanc, soloist

by Paul Simon

Doxology

UM Hymnal No. 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Gratitude

**Awesome God, you sent Jesus to teach people firsthand the power of your love, grace, and authority. Jesus washed away unclean spirits and performed countless other miracles so that even the faithless would experience your love. You call us to be mindful and vigilant of the extraordinary miracles that you continue to work in our lives today. May this offering undergird ministries that show others your miraculous love, grace, and authority. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# 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

“All Who Hunger”

TFWS Hymnal No. 2126

1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal, taste and see that God is good.
2. All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered, in communion’s love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“Intermezzo VI”

by H. Schroder



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](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, Nancy Dierauer, Greg Locke, Devon Olson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Garrett Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore

## 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, Coon Rapids UMC. May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2021. This week we pray for: Christ UMC (Rochester), Church in the Maples (Norwood Young America), Church of Peace (Richfield), Church of Peace UMC (Fergus Falls), Clarissa UMC, Clearwater UMC, Clotho UMC (Clarissa), Common Ground: A UM Community (Cambridge), Community UMC (Columbia Heights).
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2021. This week we pray for: Central Texas Annual Conference, Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference, Czech and Slovak Republics Annual Conference, Dakotas 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, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Agnes Danzl, Jack Exline, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Rexi Warner's friend, Heidi, Dave Couillard, Dawn, Aliyah, and Alice, family members of Sherree Stratton, Brian Boardman, Bob Wright, Lynne Alexander, and Laurel Lien.

### Prayers for Comfort:

All those in hospice and their families.

### Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- The family and friends of Susan (Woodward) Stenseth who died on January 20, especially her sister and church member, Connie Gillespie. A private family service is planned.
- The family and friends of, Ed Bubb, who died January 7.

### 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](http://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

[Kathy Newbauer](#), 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 31

### 10:45 am | Church Conference

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.

### 8:00 pm | Youth Group

Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

### 7:00-8:30 pm | DOC-O-RAMA: [God In America](#)

Sundays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7  
Meeting ID: 857-7778-2442 Passcode: 5835  
Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)  
Tonight's episode of [God in America](#) is set in the 1950s and 1960s, featuring the ministries of Billy Graham & Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tomorrow, Monday, February 1

### 7:00 pm | Book Study: How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

Mondays, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8  
Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546, No Passcode needed  
Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)  
Contact [Gail Johnson](#).

## The Lent Daily Devotional

The Lent theme this year is **Day by Day**. We are focusing on "trying on" spiritual practices to put our faith into action. **You are invited** to write a short reflection for your church's Lent devotional booklet about this theme. See p. 5 of the [Heartline newsletter](#) for more information.

### Submission Guidelines:

1. Your reflection, poem, or prayer should be 250 words or less.
2. It must be your own original writing. Sorry, we cannot publish your favorite poem by another writer.
3. **Submit your writing by January 31 to [nmelcher@richfieldumc.org](mailto:nmelcher@richfieldumc.org).**

## Upcoming

### Online Lunch and Learn Series



Thursday, February 11, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835 [Join the zoom Meeting](#) Call-In: 312.626.6799, enter Meeting ID and Passcode (standard rates may apply)  
Join us for light-hearted Valentine's celebration with simple crafts and a super-easy sweet to make. Our presenter is our former pastor, Pam Serdar. This is a hands-on event! You will be mailed an envelope with the necessary craft items. **Email Kay Bergeland no later than Feb. 1st at [kbergeland@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeland@richfieldumc.org) to ensure that you receive the mailing before Feb. 11th**

## 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.



### Check-In

Help your church track online worship trends, thank you. [richfieldumc.org/hereiam](http://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](http://richfieldumc.org/live).

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