



February 21, 2021 at 9:30am
First Sunday in Lent
youtube.com/richfieldumc



ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“Adagio for Strings ”

by S. Barber

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Garrett Johnson

With honesty and courage, God calls us to take account of evil and injustice.

To consider it in community.

To reflect in silence.

To pay attention in public.

The love of God makes known our transgressions.

Not for shame nor for guilt, but for deliverance and freedom.

Mercy comes to take our hand.

The way of salvation is set before us.

Thanks be to God, our redeemer and friend.

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Centering Prayer

Gail Johnson

God of Grace, for so long, we have been warned of a divine love that punishes. This teaching has taken hold around us and within us at great cost. We shun and shame. We fear accountability. We close off possibilities for transformation. As we confront the sins of our own era, help us to break this pattern and learn new ways of living out love and justice together. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

Sara Watne

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

London and Buerkely Owens

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

Alicia Owens

*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

“Behold My Servant”
Paige Armstrong, soloist

by B. Bengtson

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 2:13-17

NRSV

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

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

Sermon

"Day of Choice"
"Day by Day" Worship Series 1 of 6

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 supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome valley"
Paige Armstrong, vocal and flute

by J. Ferguson

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

God of the ages past and present, you are timeless and eternal. You offer us today the covenant relationship that you first established with Noah. May we openly receive your powerful and timeless love. Pour out your blessing on this offering so that people throughout the generations respond to you with a resounding, "Thank you, Lord!" 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

“Jesus, Tempted in the Desert”
Vs. 1 and 4

TFWS Hymnal No. 2105

1. Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread;
“Use your pow’r,” the tempter tells him;
“Turn these barren rocks to bread!”
“Not alone by bread,” he answers, “can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!”
4. When we face temptation’s power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour, come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us, lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“Toccata in D minor”

by G. Nevin



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

Liturgists: Gail Johnson, Garrett Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher, Alicia Owens,
London and Buerkley Owens, Sara Watne

The Lord’s Prayer (in order of appearance): Shar Salisbury, Maya Olson,
Noelle Olson, Steve and Jan Kirchner, Dan Bur and Luzia Tavares,
Andi Olson, Nick Olson, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Gertie Melcher,
Sonja and Eva Jackson

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

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: Dover UMC (Saint Charles), Eagle Bend UMC, East Chain UMC (Fairmont), Eden Prairie UMC, Elk River UMC, Ellendale UMC, Elmore UMC, Ely UMC, Elysian UMC, Embrace Church (Lakeland).
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2021. This week we pray for: Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, Eastern Russia and Central Asia Provisional Annual Conference, Estonia Annual Conference (includes Latvia and Lithuania Districts)
- 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, Lynne Alexander, Laurel Lien, Sherree Stratton, Ron Doncavage, Rob Matheus, brother of Randy Matheus, and Lenny Klosinski, uncle of Steve Klosinski.

Prayers for Comfort:

All those in hospice and their families.

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 | 612.568.6774

[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, February 21

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.

8:00 pm | Youth Group

Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

Beginning Tomorrow, Monday, February 22

“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”

Mondays in Lent: Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546

No password needed. Join the Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91073668546> or join by phone, dial 312-626-6799 (standard rates may apply)

This Social Justice Study Group will watch and discuss episodes from “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man.” In these videos, Emmanuel Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to, now more than ever.

This Friday, February 26

10:00 am | Lenten Book & Video Study: Love Is the Way

Fridays in Lent: February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2 beginning February 19

10:00am Meeting ID: 835-1679-2663 Passcode: 5835 Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

We'll read Bishop Michael Curry's [Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times](#), and watch a series of videos highlighting each chapter to further group discussion. For more information, contact co-leaders Kate Currie: katecurrie2@gmail.com and Meg Spicher: mmspicher19@gmail.com

Next Sunday, February 28

10:45 am | Children's Sunday School

Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#)

Lent Daily Devotional

A Lent Daily Devotional with submission from RUMC members and friends is available to you as you journey through Lent. An electronic copy is available at richfieldumc.org/devo. Or go to facebook.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurch to enjoy the daily posts there (please like and follow the page and share the posts with your friends). Blessings to you on your Lenten journey.

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 | Morning Book Group

Contact [Gail Johnson](#) to get connected.



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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