



March 14, 2021 at 9:30am  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc)



## ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“Ashokan Farewell”

by Jay Unger

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Coursing through all the complexities of life,  
the grace of God is a constant companion.

**A blessing that is bestowed, not earned.**

A declaration of inherent worth.

**A divine confidence in human potential.**

Let all the earth breathe a sigh of relief.

**All striving can cease.**

God’s grace is steadfast and forever.

1. Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle, sing the ending of the fray;  
now above the cross, the trophy, sound the loud triumphant lay:  
tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, as a victim won the day.
3. Thus, with thirty years accomplished, went he forth from Nazareth,  
destined, dedicated, willing, wrought his work, and met his death.  
Like a lamb he humbly yielded on the cross his dying breath.

## Centering Prayer

Teach us, Holy One, of your grace. Grace that is honest. Grace that is steady. Grace that delivers from evil and accompanies to healing. That we may be rooted in a love that neither boasts nor self-loathes, but declares all life as sacred, may it be so. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

## Breakthrough Prayer

Randy Matheus

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

Bea and Gertie Melcher

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

“Breathe”

by Marie Barnett

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

## Gospel Reading

John 3:1-21

NRSV

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Sermon

“Day of Birth”  
“Day by Day” Worship Series 4 of 6

Rev. Nate Melcher

Prayers of the People

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

A Prayer Marking One Year of Pandemic Life

God you are with us all the time.

**All the time you are with us.**

Today we remember.

**We remember how things used to be. We remember how many things we have gone through. We remember things we missed and people we lost.**

Today we hope.

**We hope for healing. We hope for vaccines. We hope for wisdom.**

Today we share.

**We share smiles with one another. We share our joys and our sorrows. We share our dreams for the future.**

God you are with us, all the time.

**All the time, you are with us. Be with us as we remember, hope, and share.**

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

*Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“The Light From Your Eyes”

by Victor Zupanc

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 Light, you gave us your only son so that we may experience eternal life. We humbly give these offerings as a faithful response to this gift. Money seems so insignificant when compared to your gift of life. Yet, we place this money before you as a sacrificial gesture of our gratitude. We pray in Jesus' name. 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

"One Lord"

by Lori True

One Lord, one faith, one call to serve each other.  
 One heart, one mind, one common ground; we stand all as one.  
 Give us new hands, open and free, to serve with grace and dignity.  
 May we be worthy of our call.  
 We have but, one Lord, one faith, one call to serve each other.  
 One heart, one mind, one common ground; we stand all as one.  
 Breathe out your Spirit upon the land, in hope and peace we'll firmly stand,  
 to live lives worthy of our call.  
 We have but, one Lord, one faith, one call to serve each other.  
 One heart, one mind, one common ground; we stand all as one.

## Benediction

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

## Postlude

"Flight of the Monarch"

by Victor Zupanc



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: Greg Locke, Devon Olson, Elise Parker, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Randy Matheus, Bea Melcher, Gertie Melcher, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, 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 fellow MCCI church, Camphor Memorial UMC. May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: Federated UMC & UCC (Morris), Finlayson UMC, First UMC (Appleton), First UMC (Austin), First UMC (Correll), First UMC (Duluth), First UMC (Lakefield), First UMC (Lindstrom), First UMC (New Ulm)
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: Great Plains Annual Conference, Gwaten Nigeria Annual Conference, Holston Annual Conference, Hundred Islands 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, Lynne Alexander, Laurel Lien, Sherree Stratton, Ron Doncavage, Rob Matheus, brother of Randy Matheus, Lenny Klosinski, uncle of Steve Klosinski, Mitzi Taylor, and Sharon Morrow.

### 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](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 | 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, March 14

10:45 am | Children's Sunday School  
Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#)

8:00 pm | Youth Group  
Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

### Tomorrow, Monday, March 15

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm | "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man"  
Mondays in Lent: March 15, 22, 29  
Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546  
No password needed. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91073668546> or by phone, call: 312 626 6799 (standard rates may apply)  
Watch/discuss episodes from "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man." In these videos, Emmanuel Acho takes on the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask.

### This Friday, March 19

10:00 am | Lenten Book & Video Study: Love Is the Way  
Fridays in Lent: March 19, 26, and April 2  
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](mailto:katecurrie2@gmail.com) and Meg Spicher: [mmspicher19@gmail.com](mailto:mmspicher19@gmail.com)

### Next Sunday, March 21

10:30 am to 12:00 pm | Drive-Thru Joy Food Drive and Palm Pick-Up  
You are invited to drive by campus to drop off food and health supply donations for VEAP Food Pantry, and pick-up a live palm branch that you can wave at home for Palm Sunday! VEAP will take any quality non-perishable food items.  
**VEAP High-Need Items:** Laundry detergent and dish soap, Cereal, Cake mix, frosting, and candles for the return of the children's birthday program

### Saturday, March 27

10:00 am-12:30 pm | Drive-Thru Easter Egg Hunt!  
This event will be held in the church parking lot. **You can help!** Volunteers needed to: Set-Up and decorate, Greet attendees, Direct traffic, Hand out Egg Hunt Kits, Play the Carnival Game and hand out prizes, Clean Up  
Contact Rev. Hope [hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org) or to volunteer go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084aaca829aafb6-drive1>

A Lent Daily Devotional is available. An electronic copy is available at [here](#). Or go to [our Facebook page](#) for daily posts.

### 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](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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