



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



ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude "Savior, Again to Thy Name" by E. Hopkins/arr. R. Tall

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship (Psalm 51, John 12) Alicia Owens

Have mercy on your people, O God.
Wash us. Cleanse us. Make us more perfect in your love.
Open the skies and pour down your grace upon your people.
Open our hearts to hear your voice. Let us thunder of your presence awaken us!
Have mercy on your people, O God.
Restore within us the joy of your salvation. Draw us nearer to Jesus, our Christ!

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. (Refrain)

Centering Prayer (Psalm 51, Hebrews 5)

Rev. Hope Hutchison

God of love and mercy, open our hearts to your presence as we worship you this day. Whether our prayers are filled with celebration or with loud cries and tears, remind us that you are the source of our eternal salvation. Give us the strength to respond faithfully to your transforming love, that the joy of your salvation might shine in and through us all. Wipe away our wrongdoing, clean our hearts, and make us more perfect. For it is in your perfect love that we are drawn more fully into your image. 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

"Come to Jesus"
Scott Clarke, soloist

by C. Rice

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

NRSV

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon

"Day of Death"
"Day by Day" Worship Series 5 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

"Behold the Lamb of God"
Paige Armstrong, soloist

by C. Courtney

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

Glorious God, you sent Jesus to change our lives in bold and amazing ways. Yet, we often are consumed by the pettiness of our own “to do” lists. As we place this offering before you, help us to surrender completely to your love and to be stirred into fruit-bearing action that results in faithful stewardship. In your holy name, we pray. 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

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”
Vs. 1 and 2

TFWS Hymnal No. 2129

1. I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus -
no turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me -
no turning back, no turning back.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“Toccata in e minor”

by J. Pachelbel



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
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, Scott Clarke, Nancy Dierauer

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher, Alicia Owens

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, Coon Rapids UMC . May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: First UMC (Ortonville), First UMC (Raymond), First UMC (Red Wing), First UMC (Redwood Falls), First UMC (Stillwater), First UMC (Windom), First UMC (Winnebago), First UMC (Worthington), First UMC of the St Cloud Region (Sartell), First United UMC & UCC (Little Falls)
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2022. 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, Lynne Alexander, Laurel Lien, Rob Matheus, brother of Randy Matheus, Lenny Klosinski, uncle of Steve Klosinski, Mitzi Taylor, Sharon Morrow, David Berner’s father, Wilber Berner, Brain Boardman, Bob Wright, and Russ Ruona.

Prayers for Comfort:

Meg Alexander and 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, 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.

High-Need Items: Laundry detergent, dish soap, Cereal, Cake mix, frosting, and candles for the return of the children's birthday program

8:00 pm | Youth Group

Contact [Garrett Johnson](#)

Tomorrow, Monday, March 22

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm | "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man"

Mondays in Lent: March 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)

This Friday, March 26

10:00 am | Book & Video Study

Fridays in Lent: March 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 to further group discussion. Contact co-leaders [Kate Currie](#) and [Meg Spicher](#).

This 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/decorate, Greet attendees, Direct traffic, Hand out Egg Hunt Kits, Play the Carnival Game and hand out prizes, Clean Up Contact [Rev. Hope](#) or to volunteer go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084aaca829aafb6-drive1>

Next Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday

10:45 am | Children's Sunday School

Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#)

Holy Week and Easter Online Worship

Maundy Thursday | April 1, 7:00 pm

Good Friday | April 2, 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday | April 3, 7:00 pm

Easter Day | Sunday, April 4, 9:30 am

"So Many Questions!" Summer Worship Series

We have so many questions about God, the Bible, faith, church, and life. **Please email your question(s) by Easter Sunday, April 4 to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.**

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



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.

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

- "Call to Worship" and "Centering Prayer" Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*. © 2020 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 64-67.
- "Prayer of Gratitude" © 2021 David S. Bell; reprinted with permission from davidsbell.org.
- *Ordinary Blessings* by Meta Herrick Carlson. Fortress Press. 2020.
- Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
- Lyrics published by special permission, public domain, or reprinted under OneLicense.net #A704105.