



August 8, 2021 at 9:30am
11th Sunday after Pentecost



bold = in unison
★ **Please stand in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

All Sing "Joy to the World" by I. Watts/G. F. Handel

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.

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

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.

Gathering Hymn*

“Gather Us In”

by Marty Haugen

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace*

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor with a mutual 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.

A Prayer for the Animals

Celebration Music

“A Place In the Choir”

by John Loesberg

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings

Garrett Johnson

Isaiah 10:1-4

The Message

Doom to you who legislate evil, who make laws that make victims—
Laws that make misery for the poor,
that rob my destitute people of dignity,
Exploiting defenseless widows, taking advantage of homeless children.
What will you have to say on Judgment Day,
when Doomsday arrives out of the blue?
Who will you get to help you? What good will your money do you?
A sorry sight you'll be then, huddled with the prisoners,
or just some corpses stacked in the street.
Even after all this, God is still angry,
his fist still raised, ready to hit them again.

Amos 8:1-6

The Message

My Master GOD showed me this vision: A bowl of fresh fruit.
He said, “What do you see, Amos?”
I said, “A bowl of fresh, ripe fruit.”
GOD said, “Right. So, I'm calling it quits with my people Israel. I'm no longer acting as if everything is just fine.”
“The royal singers will wail when it happens.” My Master GOD said so.
“Corpses will be strewn here, there, and everywhere. Hush!”
Listen to this, you who walk all over the weak,
you who treat poor people as less than nothing,
Who say, “When's my next paycheck coming so I can go out and live it up?
How long till the weekend when I can go out and have a good time?”
Who give little and take much, and never do an honest day's work.
You exploit the poor, using them—
and then, when they're used up, you discard them.

This is what the Lord GOD showed me—a basket of summer fruit.
 He said, “Amos, what do you see?”
 And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.”
 Then the LORD said to me,
 “The end has come upon my people Israel;
 I will never again pass them by.
 The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,”
 says the Lord GOD;
 “the dead bodies shall be many,
 cast out in every place. Be silent!”
 Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
 and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
 saying, “When will the new moon be over
 so that we may sell grain;
 and the sabbath,
 so that we may offer wheat for sale?
 We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
 and practice deceit with false balances,
 buying the poor for silver
 and the needy for a pair of sandals,
 and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

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

Sermon “Can the church be political?” Rev. Nate Melcher
 “So Many Questions!” Worship Series 5 of 9

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 “You’ve Got a Friend” by Carole King

THANKSGIVING

Prayer of Gratitude

Gracious God, we joyously place before you our offerings. May these gifts support our ministry so that others may gather in your name and follow your path of love and peace. We, your beloved children, seek to be “imitators of God” and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn✱

“Come Away with Me”

by Mary Nelson Keithahn/John D. Horman

1. Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with its frantic pace,
to pray, reflect, and seek God's grace.
Come away with me. Come away.
2. Come and pray with me on a gentle sea,
on top of a hill in the Galilee,
in gardens like Gethsemane.
Come away with me. Come away.
3. Come today with thoughts of the countless ways
that God's steadfast love blesses all our days,
and join with me in silent praise.
Come away with me. Come away.

Benediction✱

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

Postlude

“Sing”

by Joe Raposo

Blessing of the Animals



Thank you for worshiping as Richfield United Methodist Church.
We hope you had a good experience. Worship is over. Service begins.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday—August 15

In-person worship at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Please wear your mask. Outdoor fellowship immediately follows the service. Worship will continue to livestream, so you can worship in-person when you're ready!

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES "SO MANY QUESTIONS, PART 2" Continues

If you have wondered about these topics, be sure to mark your calendar and experience worship.

Aug. 15: Why is the Bible used as a weapon?

Aug. 22: Does God give you more than you can handle?

Aug. 29: Has the pandemic changed church forever?

Sept. 5: How can I really believe all of this stuff?

Youth Group

- Youth and Family Picnic | Today, Sun. 8/8, noon
- Dilly Bar Discussions | Wed., 8/11, 2:00–3:00 pm
Contact Garrett Johnson, Youth Leader, for details.
gjohnson@richfieldumc.org

VEAP Back to School Supply Drive—Now through Sunday, Aug. 22

What supplies are most needed?

Backpacks and calculators (scientific or otherwise) are high-demand items and the most impactful as they're expensive for families to purchase on their own. If you are able, please consider making these a focus of your donations. Traditional supplies like spiral notebooks, flash drives, headphones, and washable markers are needed as well. Please make sure all items are new. Please, no gift cards at this time.

Where and when should I drop off supplies?

- The church August 1st-22nd on Sundays (9:00 am-11:00 am), Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays (8:00 am-4:00 pm).
- The Community Carnival the morning of August 21st.

Drive-Thru Community Carnival & School Supply Drive

Saturday, August 21, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Games, snacks, a photo booth and lots of fun... all from the comfort of your car! Bring donations for VEAP's School Supply Drive.

Your help is needed!—directing traffic, handing out masks, collecting donations to VEAP, running games, handing out prizes, set-up, clean-up.

If you are able to help, please contact Rev. Hope at

hhutchison@richfieldumc.org with questions, or to volunteer go to
<https://tinyurl.com/54m4fcze>

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read

Sept. 13: (note date change) *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

Contact both [Fern Albertson](#) and [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.

Women's Bible Study is taking a break and will resume on Tues., Sept. 14.

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

You are invited to devote time and energy to God and neighbor every day to pray for:

- Openness for “conflux moments.” May all experience God in their lives.
- People in need of a loving church home. May they be embraced.
- 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: The Grove UMC (Woodbury), The Table (Minneapolis), The Well, A UM Community (Rosemount), Thief River Falls UMC, Tracy UMC, Trimont UMC (Sherburn), Trinity UMC (Hoyt Lakes), Two Harbors UMC & PCUSA, United Church of Grand Meadow, United Methodist Church of Anoka.
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: Texas Annual Conference, Uganda/South Sudan Annual Conference, Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference, Upper New York Annual Conference.
- Children near and far. 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.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Agnes Danzl, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Laurel Lien, Lenny Klosinski, uncle of Steve Klosinski, James York, father-in-law of Randy Matheus, John Cogan, Lori Claussen, and Steve Kirchner.

Prayers for Comfort:

Betty Donovan, Barb Rogers's mother, and all in hospice and their families.

Prayers for those who are Grieving:

Steve and Rexi Warner in the death of Steve's father, Rev. Sherman Warner.

Victor Zupanc and Dianne Schmiesing in the death of Dianne's father, Robert.

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Lisa Keith, Steve Kimball, Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher,
Devon Olson, Paul Pieper, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Garrett Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Ann Johnson, Rev. Bill Johnson, Dale Olson

The Church Office/Campus Is Open

The church office and campus is open, with operating hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

The Church Library is open when the campus is open.

Stop by to look through the new books and check-out a book to read.

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