



August 15, 2021 at 9:30am
12th Sunday after Pentecost



bold = in unison

* Please stand in body or spirit.

+Please wear a mask if you sing.

ENTRANCE

Prelude “Partita in E Major for Solo Violin, BWV 1006” J. S. Bach
III. Gavotte en Rondeau
Ben Lenzmeier, violin
Groth Scholarship recipient

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* Rev. Hope Hutchison

When we co-create abundance,
the Spirit of the Living Christ is among us.
When we pull back the curtain on the lie of scarcity,
the Spirit of the Living Christ is among us.
When we make the shared table of nourishment accessible,
the Spirit of the Living Christ is among us.
Let us Gather in the Spirit of the Living Christ.

Gathering Hymn*+

“Morning Has Broken”
Vs. 1 and 3

UM Hymnal No. 145

1. Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God’s re-creation of the new day!

Centering Prayer

Wholly Present God, we yearn for a day when the needs of our planet and all creatures are met. We long for nourishing food, clean water, bodily safety, rejuvenating rest, and ordinary delight for all beings everywhere. Until we make it so, hold us in our grief and guide us in our transformation. 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 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.

Celebration Music “Partita in E Major for Solo Violin, BWV 1006” J. S. Bach
IV. Minuets I and II
Ben Lenzmeier, violin
Groth Scholarship recipient

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings

Meg Spicher

Ephesians 6:5-8

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.

Luke 18:18-30

A certain ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.’” He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

Then Peter said, “Look, we have left our homes and followed you.” And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

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

Sermon

“Why is the Bible used as a weapon?” Rev. Nate Melcher
“So Many Questions!” Worship Series 6 of 9

Special Music

“A Plowshare Prayer”

by Spencer LaJoye

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.

Sharing Our Gifts

*Your gift in-person, by mail or phone, or online at richfieldumc.org/give supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“When the Poor Ones Who have Nothing”

A. Olivar and M. Monzano

Tiffany Holt, soloist

THANKSGIVING

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*

Holy Spirit, bless what we have brought forth to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our community. May we have fortitude when we feel weary. May we be surprised by moments of connection and delight. When we feel resentment toward others or when we feel judgment towards ourselves, may compassion usher us more deeply toward each other, where our freedom intertwines. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn✧+

“Make Me a Servant”

The Faith We Sing Hymnal No. 2176

Sing twice

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

Benediction✧

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

Postlude

“Prelude in Classic Style”

G. Young



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

Welcome Groth Scholarship recipient Benjamin Lenzmeier! Ben will be a junior at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He will be studying violin performance and is a graduate of St. Agnes High School, St. Paul.

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Tiffany Holt

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher, Meg Spicher

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

Greeter: Sharon Hall

Driver: Russ Ruona

Counters: Ron Doncavage, Pat Doncavage, Jill Williamson

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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>

Next Sunday—August 22

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

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?

Upcoming

September 5: Online-Only Worship

[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://www.youtube.com/richfieldumc) or 888.650.5835

September 12: Rally Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks in worship

Confirmation Coming Soon

We will be starting our next round of confirmation classes this fall for any youth who are in at least 7th grade and older who wish to become full members of the church. For more information please contact Garrett at

gjohnson@richfieldumc.org.

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, 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: Uptown Church (Minneapolis), Vergas UMC, Verndale UMC (Wadena), Villard UMC, Vineyard UMC (Hutchinson), Walker Community UMC (Minneapolis), Walnut Grove UMC, Weaver UMC (Kellogg), Wesley Foundation: University of Minnesota.
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: West Ohio Annual Conference, West Virginia Annual Conference, West Zimbabwe Annual Conference, Western Angola 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.

Jodi and Jim Young in the death of Jodi's father, Harold M. Fratt, Sr.

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.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, August 15, 2021

8:30 am – 11:30 am *Middle Office reserved for nursing mothers*

9:30 am Worship
(+Live streamed & archived)

10:30 am Outdoor Fellowship

Monday, August 16, 2021

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

9:00 am CFC Children's Church

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
(Online via Zoom)

9:00 am CFC Soccer

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Friday, August 20, 2021

Saturday, August 21, 2021

8:30 am Men's Group
(Online via Zoom)

10:00 am Drive-Thru Community
Carnival

10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group
(Online via Zoom)

Sunday, August 22, 2021

9:30 am Worship
(+Live streamed & archived)

10:30 am Outdoor Fellowship

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5835 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55419

612-861-6086

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