



September 5, 2021 at 9:30am
15th Sunday after Pentecost



bold = in unison

ENTRANCE

Prelude "My Heart Ever Faithful" by J. S. Bach
Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship Rev. Hope Hutchison

We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever.
We gather surrounded by God's Holy Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Christ.
Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fills our days.
Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and justice.

Gathering Hymn

“Envía tu Espíritu”

by Bob Hurd

Refrain

Envía tu Espíritu, envía tu Espíritu, envía tu Espíritu,
sea renovada la faz de la tierra. Sea renovada la faz de la tierra.

Send out your Spirit, send out your Spirit, send out your Spirit
send out and renew the face of the earth. send out and renew the
face of the earth.

1. Spirit of the living God, burn in our hearts,
and make us a people of hope and compassion. (Refrain)
2. Wind of promise, wind of change, friend of the poor,
empower your people to make peace and justice. (Refrain)
3. Breath of life and holiness, heal every wound,
and lead us beyond every sin that divides us. (Refrain)

Prayer of Confession (inspired by James 2:1-10)

God of us all, your grace and mercy fill our lives every day. We give you our thanks and praise. Too often, we forget or ignore our presence in our lives. Too often, we treat your children unequally, deeming some more important than others. Too often, we forget that our daily actions need to reflect our faith. Forgive us, and lead us to embrace abundant life for all of your children. Hear us now in our silent confessions to you...

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

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

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

C. Gabriel, arr. L. Zanienelli

Paige Armstrong, soloist

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

NRSV

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Creator has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sermon

"How can I really believe all of this?"

Rev. Wayne Albertson

"So Many Questions!" Worship Series 9 of 9

THANKSGIVING

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Setting C p.20

*You are invited to gather elements for Holy Communion
with care and delight.*

The LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the LORD.

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

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.*

Receiving the Sacrament

*There is no barrier between you and the table. All who seek the grace of
Jesus are welcome.*

Music During Communion

“Turn, Turn, Turn”

by Pete Seeger

Prayer After Receiving the Sacrament

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.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” UMH No. 581
Vs. 1, 2, and 4 by Alfred F. Bayly

1. Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy’s perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
every gift which you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.
4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“Shower the People”

by James Taylor



**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—September 12

Sunday, September 12

Rally Sunday with Blessing of the Backpacks in worship, Welcome Whirl for Children and Youth, and Donuts for fellowship time.

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

Fall Worship Series Begins - "Church Is a People"

September 12 - October 10

As the old hymn goes, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, **the church is a people.**" Most importantly, the church is people who rely on God and each other. As we regather and rally this fall season, we remember our vows as members of the church to "faithfully participate in its ministries by [our] prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness." Each week, affirm the power of each vow and explore what they mean to you.

Welcome Whirl for Children, Youth, and Families

Children's Welcome Whirl celebration outside. This is our Sunday School Registration Fair, and we will have some cool snacks, and a photo booth to celebrate!

Confirmation Parent/Guardian Meeting

September 12th at 11am upstairs in the youth room. Confirmation is open to any student who is in at least 7th grade. At this meeting we will discuss a few options of what confirmation can look like for this year so that we can find a meaningful confirmation experience that works for as many families as possible. We understand that many of you may still have some uncomfortable feelings about meeting in person or maybe you are involved with lots of activities, we want to find a confirmation schedule that works best for your situation. If you can't make it to the meeting or don't feel ready to be in person yet, contact Garrett at gjohnson@richfieldumc.org and we can plan a Zoom meeting to have your voice heard.

Upcoming

Sunday September 19

MCCI: Missional Church Consultation Initiative

Resource Refocus Sunday - Sept. 19, 10:45 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

An MCCI coach meets with the church as we name our current ministry activities, organization, partnerships, and resource areas that make up who we are and how we operate as a church today. This is your opportunity to lift up and celebrate the resources God has given our church!

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 church's MCCI journey. May the Spirit break through.
- 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, James York, father-in-law of Randy Matheus, Lori Claussen, and Bev Crandall's brother-in-law, Howard.

Prayers for Comfort:

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

Prayers for those who are Grieving:

Grace Cogan and family in the death of RUMC member, John Cogan.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

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.

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Paige Armstrong, Nancy Dierauer, Greg Locke, Devon Olson,
Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Wayne Albertson, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Dale Olson

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