



November 28, 2021 at 9:30am
First Sunday of Advent



**"This is what
the Lord has done
for me when he
looked favorably
on me and took away
the disgrace I have
endured among
my people."**

Luke 1:25

richfieldumc.org

ENTRANCE

bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit.**

Prelude "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" by Stephen Schwartz

Welcome Rev. Hope Hutchison

Lighting the Advent Wreath I The Candle of Hope
Gail Johnson and Michelle Wegscheid

The season of Advent bids us to wait;
Our bodies are still, yet they reach out to the holy.

The priest Zechariah declares his prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

For God has looked favorably upon God's people and redeemed them!"

It is a declaration bursting with the meaning of memory.

It is a declaration for a people who find hope in God.

In the stillness, in the waiting, God is in this.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope.

The Light of Hope for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.

May hope burn bright in every corner of our lives. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
vs. 1-2

UM Hymnal No. 211

*Please remember that we are **not** singing as a church during in-person worship due to pandemic concerns. Thank you for your cooperation.*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

Centering Prayer

Garrett Johnson

Righteous One, your glory shines brighter than the sun. We remember your compassion and your faithful love, as we come to worship this day. Lift up our souls to meet the challenges we face, as we seek to bear the fruit of your salvation. May your righteous branch grow within our hearts, that our lives may abound in mercy and steadfast love. 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

“Simple Season”

by Barbara McAfee

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

NRSV

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

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

Sermon

“The Meaning of Memory”
“Nativity Now” Worship Series 1 of 4

Rev. Ruth Phelps

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

“Dark Night of the Soul” by Loreena McKennitt

THANKSGIVING

Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

O God, we offer you these gifts and tithes. We pray that these funds may abound in love for one another throughout the world. Strengthen our hearts in holiness as we faithfully give, so that our ways may be directed by you. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn

“People Look East”
vs. 1-3

UM Hymnal No. 202

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Benediction

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

Postlude

“My Sweet Lord”

by George Harrison



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

Hello, guests! Welcome to worship as Richfield UMC. It's a big step to come to a new church and we're glad you're here. If you have questions, please ask any church member, and we hope you have a good experience.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today—November 28

Call For Photos of Christmas Pageant Past!—Deadline: Today, Nov. 28
Do you have photos of you or your family members participating in a Richfield UMC Christmas Pageant? We are especially interested in photos we can put side-by-side of Baby Jesus past *and* Baby Jesus *today!* You may submit digital copies or scans to rumc@richfieldumc.org or bring them to the church (please label them well, if you want them returned!).

UMW Bake Sale: Bake Sale to Go

This year's bake sale will be done a little differently than previous years. It will be a Bake Sale to Go. Get your pre-orders in for items through Sunday, Dec. 5. Your order will be packaged and ready for pick up on Sun. Dec. 12.

Cardmaking 101—Make Christmas Cards—12/1, 12/8, 12/15

Make Christmas Cards for our homebound members and other folks in our church community. All levels of experience welcome. Dec. 1, 8, & 15, from 6:30-8pm in the Grace Room. RSVP: Susan Johnson at 612-812-4892

Next Sunday, December 5

Richfield Symphonic Band in Concert

Get into the spirit of the season with the Richfield Symphonic Band Holiday Concert **next Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary**. A free-will offering will be split between Richfield UMC and the band. This concert will also feature our own Nancy Dierauer on the organ. Learn more about The Richfield Symphonic Band at rsband.org.

Confirmands and Mentors Meeting

Next Sunday, after the service, confirmands and their mentors please meet in the youth room.

Worship Service of Hope and Healing—Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 pm

The long winter nights, the coming of special holidays, and the close of the year can stir up many emotions. Loss, joy, wonder, exhaustion, grief - feelings like these are normal and we do well to be together for solidarity and support. **The Service of Hope and Healing will be on Wed., Dec. 8, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary**. If you are unable to attend in-person, a rebroadcast of the 2020 Service of Hope and Healing will premiere online at 6:30 pm on December 8 on Richfield UMC's YouTube channel, youtube.com/richfieldumc.

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship for Everyone

Thursday, December 9, 1:00 - 2:00 pm (program only, no lunch)

Program: "Christmas Presence" with speaker Pati Kachel

Both in person-in and Online/Phone via Zoom - No cost for this program.

RSVP by Tue., Dec. 7, 612-861-6086 or kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

Ongoing and Open

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

Dec. 6: *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn

Contact [both Fern Albertson](#) and [Molly Reko](#) to get connected.

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.

Families with Young Children are always welcome in worship!

Here are some options to help your family have a good experience today:

The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for having a quiet or wiggly moment.

Art Cart - Children can fill a bag with items in The Nook to bring with them to worship with their families in the pews.

Sacred Ground - This space is temporarily closed. Please feel free to sit together as a family in the pews, or use the Nook instead.

Time with Children - Children of all ages are invited to experience a message just for them while seated with their parents/guardians.

Sunday School - Following the Time with Children, from September-May, children may worship or go to Sunday School. Meet your teachers in the Nook. There is no Sunday School on "Children First" Sundays, the 1st Sunday of the month.

Nursing Mothers - You may nurse wherever you like. There is also a reserved Nursing Room available near the Library area.

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

May we devote time and energy to God and neighbor and pray every day for:

- Open minds and hearts for "conflux moments."
- People in need of a loving church home.
- Our church's journey toward vitality.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Laurel Lien, Tim, son of Roxie and Bill Hillger, Caroline Riley, Lee Weiser's father, Joseph Weiser, Susan Johnson's (SK) sister-in-law, Donna, Roxie and Bill Hillger, and Sharon Morrow.

Prayers for those who are Grieving:

- * The family and friends of Jean Urista. A funeral service was held recently.
- * Molly Reko and family in the death of her brother, Dr. Robert Wilson.
- * Nancy and John Dierauer and family in the death of Nancy's mother, Marcella Nelson.
- * The family and friends of Dale Blomsness. There will be a funeral service in the Sanctuary on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 11:00 am with visitation the hour prior to the service. In-person only, no livestreaming.
- * Susan and SK Johnson in the death of Susan's brother, Jim.
- * Toni and Greg Locke and family in the death of Toni's mother, LaRose Martin. There will be a memorial service in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 11:00 am with visitation the hour prior to the service. In-person only.

This Week's Calendar

The church office/Campus is open Tues.-Thurs., 8am-4pm.
The Church Library is open when the campus is open.

Sunday, November 28, 2021

8:30 am –11:30 am *Middle Office reserved for nursing mothers*
9:30 am Worship (+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Indoor Fellowship
10:30 am Orders Being Taken: UMW
Bake Sale to Go

Monday, November 29, 2021

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

9:00 am CFC Children's Church
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 01, 2021

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am CFC Soccer
6:00 pm Christmas Card Making
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Youth Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 02, 2021

10:00 am Blomsness Visitation
11:00 am Dale Blomsness Funeral

Friday, December 03, 2021

Saturday, December 04, 2021

8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, December 05, 2021

9:30 am Worship
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Outdoor Sunday School
10:30 am Indoor Fellowship
10:30 am Orders Being Taken: UMW
Bake Sale to Go
4:00 pm Richfield Symphonic Band
Holiday Concert

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Devon Olson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Gail Johnson
Garrett Johnson, Rev. Ruth Phelps, Michelle Wegscheid

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

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