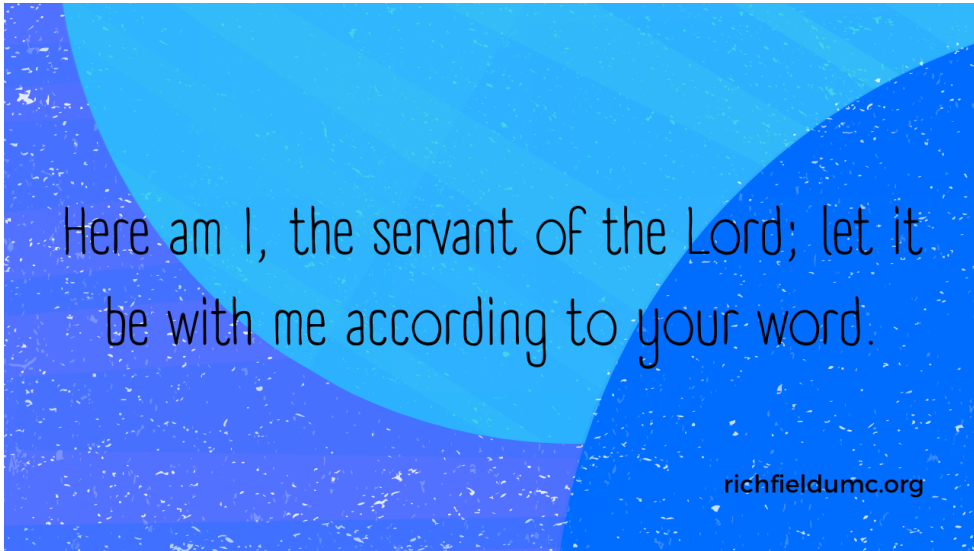




December 5, 2021 at 9:30am
Second Sunday of Advent



bold = in unison

ENTRANCE

Prelude “Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming” arr. J. Ferguson
Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher
Lighting the Advent Wreath II The Candle of Peace Pat and Ron Doncavage

The season of Advent bids us to smile;
Our songs are quiet, yet they echo for an eternity.

The mother Mary sings her praise: “My soul magnifies the Lord!
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of servants.”
It is a song bursting with the promise of potential.
It is a song for a people who seek the peace of God.
In the wind, in the grace notes, God is in this.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace.
The Light of Peace for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.
May peace burn bright in every corner of our lives. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

by Rory Cooney

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

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Hope Hutchison

God of light and love, your prophets call us to prepare for your coming, and to open our hearts to all who seek compassion and relief. Too often we close our ears to cries of pain, too often we close our eyes to the sight of those in need. Forgive us when we are unwilling to bear your light, when we close off the pathways to our hearts to those who are in need of your good news. Call us to bring light into shadowy places, and to be messengers of your coming into a world of death and despair. Hear us now in our silent prayer...

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 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. J. Ferguson
 Chancel Choir
 Pat Norton, cello

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Sermon “Do I have an opportunity for you” Rev. Kent Johnson
 “Nativity Now” Worship Series 2 of 4

Gospel Reading Luke 1:46-56 *The Message*

And Mary said,

I'm bursting with God-news;
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.
His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him.
He bared his arm and showed his strength,
scattered the bluffing braggarts.
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,
pulled victims out of the mud.
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;
the callous rich were left out in the cold.
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.
It's exactly what he promised,
beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THANKSGIVING

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*The choir will sing “Song of the Body of Christ” verse by verse, as indicated.
You are invited to follow along with the words of this prayer.*

We come to share our story, we come to break the bread, we come to know our rising from the dead.

...for the exploited and downtrodden.

We come as your people, we come as your own, united with each other, love finds a home.

...killed by violence.

We are called to heal the broken, to be hope for the poor, we are called to feed the hungry at our door.

...seeking and the loving.

Bread of life and cup of promise, in this meal we all are one. In our dying and our rising, may your kingdom come.

...hold out for the time that is coming.

You will lead and we shall follow, you will be the breath of life; living water, we are thirsting for your light.

...in remembrance of me.

We will live and sing your praises, "Alleluia" is our song. May we live in love and peace our whole life long.

...in remembrance of me.

We come to share our story, we come to break the bread, we come to know our rising from the dead.

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.

Receiving the Sacrament

Music During Communion "Carol of the Advent"
Chancel Choir

by P. Dietterich

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 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UM Hymnal No. 206
vs. 1 and 3

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Benediction

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

Postlude “Ding, Dong Merrily on High” M. Setchell



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—December 5

Confirmands and Mentors Meeting

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

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, December 5. Your order will be packaged and ready for pick up on Sunday December 12.

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.

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

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

Next Sunday, December 12

Children's Christmas Pageant: We are looking forward to this creative worship experience that allows our children to lead us in remembering the story of Jesus's birth, and in celebrating the Advent season.

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 Dale Blomsness. A service was held on Dec. 2.
- * 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. A service was held on Dec. 4.

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, 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

Monday, December 6, 2021

1:30 pm Women Who Read

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

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

Wednesday, December 08, 2021

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:30 pm Christmas Card Making
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship Service of Hope and Healing
7:00 pm Youth Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 09, 2021

1:00 pm Time For LIFE

Friday, December 10, 2021

Saturday, December 11, 2021

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

Sunday, December 12, 2021

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

9:30 am Worship
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am UMW Bake Sale Pick-Up Day
9:30 am Confirmation Class
10:30 am Indoor Fellowship

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Musicians: Paige Armstrong, Nancy Dierauer, Pat Norton
Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Kent Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher
Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, Garrett Johnson, Dale Olson

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