



December 24, 2021 at 4:00 pm  
Christmas Eve



(bold = in unison)

Prelude

Christmas Medley for Organ  
Nancy Dierauer

“The First Noel”  
Molly Sioux McDonald, violin

arr. Cindy Blevins

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Olson Family  
Rhonda, Dale, Ryan, Devon, Maya

The season of Advent bids us to rejoice;  
Our eyes shine bright and our core is warm.

The Angels herald a message for the world:  
“Glory to God in the highest heaven!  
And on earth, peace among the beloved children of God!”  
It is a herald of the light of the world.  
It is a herald for a people in need of the love of God.  
In the manger then, in our homes now, God is in this.

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ Candle.  
The Light of the World for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.  
May light burn bright in every corner of our lives. Amen.

Gathering Hymn                      “O Come, All Ye Faithful”                      by John F. Wade

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

Christmas Prayer                      Rev. Hope Hutchison

Glorious God, in the beauty of holiness we await the coming of your Son.  
A people who walked in the shadow have seen a great light. Through the  
seed of David and nurtured in the womb of Mary, you sent a glorious hope  
to break forth upon the horizon. The light of truth pierces all that is  
untrue. The light of justice breaks through the clouds of injustice. The  
light of mercy outshines the shadow of despair. In the stillness we await  
your Light, Holy God - that Light is Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
God, Eternal Creator, the Prince of Peace! Come, Lord Jesus, come. We  
have made room for you. Hear us as we pray your 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.

Hymn "He Is Born" Trad. French carol

Christmas Pageant "The Nativity: A Documentary"

Sharing the Story Luke 2:1-7 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by P. Brooks/L. Redner

Sharing the Story Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" Trad. French carol  
*You are invited to ring a bell during the refrain.*

Sharing the Story Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" by E. Sears/R. Willis

Sermon "It's the Most Multiverse Time of the Year"  
Rev. Nate Melcher

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings, and Ourselves

*This year's special Christmas Eve offering supports  
the Ain Dah Yung Center, Heifer International,  
and the technology ministries of Richfield UMC.  
Make your special gift in-person, by mail or phone, or online:  
[richfieldumc.org/give](http://richfieldumc.org/give).*

*Thank you for your extravagant generosity in the spirit of Christmas.*

Solo "Away in a Manger"  
Molly Sioux McDonald, violin

Doxology "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)  
*You are invited to ring a bell.*

Prayer of Gratitude

**We celebrate the birth of the Holy Child! Although born in humble surroundings, Jesus' presence surrounds all who call upon his name. The hope born in a manger long ago is birthed again. We gratefully offer these financial gifts as a way to provide hope for all God's children. We rejoice in knowing that your ministry is strengthened by our gifts and prayers. We pray in the name of the Babe in the Manger. Amen.**

Sharing the Light

*As Molly Sioux McDonald sings "Joseph Dearest,"  
please begin passing the promise of Light.  
You are asked to tip your unlit candle  
to the lit flame of your neighbor.  
Please use caution.*

Solo "Joseph Dearest"  
Molly Sioux McDonald, soloist

Hymn "Silent Night" by J. Mohr/F. Gruber

## Benediction

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord all the earth.

**Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare God's wonderful works among all peoples.**

The Lord is great and greatly to be praised. The Lord who created heaven and earth.

**Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare God's wondrous works among all peoples.**

Bring gifts to the God of gods; enter God's courtyard with exultations.

**Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare God's wondrous works among all peoples.**

The Lord rules with fairness and equity. Even the trees of the earth rejoice at God's judgment.

**Hallelujah! The Lord establishes justice. Hallelujah!**

**The Lord has brought justice for all!**

And until we meet again...

**...let us live in faith, justice, and joy! Amen.**

Postlude

"In Dulci Jubilo"

J. S. Bach



**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

**Pickup your copy of *Three Simple Rules* as you are leaving worship.**

A Fresh Worship Series to Kick-off 2022: "FIRST THING FIRST"

When we let our faith lead how we make our decisions, we put God first. By first doing no harm, then doing good, and all along the way staying in love with God, may you live a life that reflects the love of God to everyone you meet. This worship series is supplemented by the book *Three Simple Rules* by Bishop Reuben Job. Pick up your copy today and read in preparation for worship this January.

January 2 Preface/Introduction, pages 7-18

January 9 Do No Harm, pages 19-32

January 16 Do Good, pages 33-50

January 23 Stay in Love with God, pages 51-64

Join in a **Book study** for *Three Simple Rules* on Sundays in January, in-person and online, beginning January 9, 10:40 am -11:15 am. All are welcome.

### This Sunday

**Online-Only Worship on December 26**

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

After this long season of distanced worship from necessity, we will experiment with distanced worship with intentionality. Please do not come to campus that day and thank you for your grace.

**Youth Group Resumes January 12**

**Wednesdays, 7:30pm-8:30pm in the Youth Room**

Join Rev. Hope, Pastor Nate, and your fellow teens and other servant volunteers for an evening of games, guest speakers, video discussion, check-in, and building community together. Contact: Rev. Hope at

[hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org).

**All Children are welcome**

Sunday School runs during the worship service. Children leave worship following the Time with Children. Children's Ministry Calendar:

Sunday, January 2: No Sunday School

Sunday, January 9, 16, 23, 30: Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall

Contact: Rev. Hope at [hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org).

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

Program: "Trends in Fraud & Identity Theft: A Perfect Storm"

Thursday, January 13th, 1:00-2:00 pm - Note: Online only this month!

[Zoom link](#): Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835 OR Call-In: 312-626-6799, then enter Meeting ID and Passcode (standard rates may apply)

Contact Parish Nurse, Kay, 612-861-6086, or [kbergeland@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeland@richfieldumc.org).

## Ongoing and Open

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

January 3: Share book recommendations for future meetings

February 7: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

Contact Fern Albertson, [WFalbertson@gmail.com](mailto:WFalbertson@gmail.com), to get connected.

### **Tuesdays, 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study**

Contact Molly Reko, [mollyreko@comcast.net](mailto:mollyreko@comcast.net), to get connected.

### **Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study**

Contact Kent Johnson, [kentjmn@gmail.com](mailto:kentjmn@gmail.com), to get connected.

### **Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group**

Contact Kent Johnson, [kentjmn@gmail.com](mailto:kentjmn@gmail.com), 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, Joyce Walls, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Bill Hillger, Sharon Morrow, David Couillard, Susan (SK) Johnson, and Lori Mosher Claussen's son, Sean.

**Prayers for Comfort:** Jan Hansen and all those in hospice and their families.

### **Prayers for those who are Grieving:**

- \* The family, especially Anne and Russ Ruona, and friends of Peggy Hamilton who died December 4, 2021.
- \* Barb and Dave Rogers and family in the death of Barb's mother, Betty Donovan.

## This Week's Calendar

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

**Friday, December 24, 2021**

**Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm Family Friendly Worship Service

9:00 pm Traditional Worship Service

**Saturday, December 25, 2021**

Merry Christmas!

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

9:30 am Online -Only Worship Service

**Monday, December 27, 2021**

**Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, December 29, 2021**

*Last day for 2021 online giving*

**Thursday, December 30, 2021**

*Last day for 2021 in-person giving*

**Friday, December 31, 2021**

**Saturday, January 1, 2022**

Happy New Year!

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**

9:30 am Worship

(+Live streamed & archived)

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Molly Sioux McDonald

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher, The Olson Family

Tech Crew: Garrett Johnson, Dale Olson, Steve Warner

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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**Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational.**

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at [richfieldumc.org/land](http://richfieldumc.org/land).