



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2, 2022 at 9:30 am  
Epiphany Sunday

IN THE BEGINNING WAS  
THE WORD, AND THE  
WORD WAS WITH GOD,  
AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

JOHN 1:1

[richfieldumc.org](http://richfieldumc.org)

## ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

"We Three Kings"

by P. Manz

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Arise, shine! Your light has come!  
**Glory to God in the highest.**  
Shadow covers the earth,  
**but God's glory shines brightly.**  
Lift up your eyes. Look around.  
**The light of God's love shines radiantly.**  
Arise, shine! Your light has come!  
**Our hearts thrill and rejoice!**

Gathering Hymn                      “There’s a Song in the Air”                      by Holland/Harrington

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

## Prayer of Confession

The presents have been opened. The cookies have been eaten. The celebrations have left us exhausted. Yet your Spirit comes again, guiding us toward true joy. In all of our busy celebrations, remind us that you desire righteousness and justice for a world in need of generous hearts. May the light of Jesus, the light of the world, live among us and turn our lives from oppressive power toward liberation and hope. 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 when your life's journey met God's heart.*

Celebration Music	“Sweet Little Jesus Boy” Paige Armstrong, soloist	arr. N. Grundahl
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## Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings      Jeremiah 31:7-14, John 1:1-18      NRSV

## Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:  
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

### John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

"Can We Have a New New Year?" Bishop David A. Bard

## THANKSGIVING

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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](http://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    “Sing We Now of Christmas!”    arr. N. Grundahl  
Paige Armstrong, soloist

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    “Joy to the World”    by I. Watts/G. F. Handel

Benediction

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

Postlude    “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”    by M. Drischner

**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, January 2

Minnesota's interim bishop, Bishop David Alan Bard, preaches a sermon of grace and welcome for our new year serving God together. While its content won't be covered in worship, you're encouraged to get acquainted with *Three Simple Rules* by reading the introduction, pages 7-18.

#### **Pickup your free copy of *Three Simple Rules* while on campus**

By first doing no harm, then doing good, and along the way staying in love with God, may your life reflect the love of God to everyone you meet. This worship series is supplemented by the book *Three Simple Rules* by Bishop Reuben Job. Get your free copy today and read in January.

For: 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. Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338; Passcode: 5835; Call In: 312-626-6799.

[Zoom link.](#)

### Tomorrow, January 3

**Women Who Read - 1st Mondays, 1:30 pm** All women who like to read and discuss books are welcome. On Jan. 3 we'll share book recommendations for future meetings. On Feb. 7 we'll discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Contact Fern, [wfalbertson@gmail.com](mailto:wfalbertson@gmail.com), to get connected.

### 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).

### Children Ministry—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 when worshipping in the Sanctuary:

**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, Lori Mosher Claussen's son, Sean, and Kate Currie.

**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 in December.

## **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, January 2, 2022**

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

### **Monday, January 3, 2022**

1:30 pm Women Who Read

### **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

### **Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

9:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am CFC Soccer  
11:00 am RUMC Staff meeting  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, January 6, 2022**

### **Friday, January 7, 2022**

### **Saturday, January 8, 2022**

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

### **Sunday, January 9, 2022**

9:30 am Worship  
(+Live streamed & archived)  
9:45am Indoor Sunday School  
10:30 am Confirmation-All Family Meeting

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Paige Armstrong, Nancy Dierauer

Liturgists: Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, Dale Olson

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