



January 30, 2022 at 9:30 am  
4th Sunday after the Epiphany

THREE SIMPLE RULES

**AND NOW FAITH,  
HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE,  
THESE THREE; AND  
THE GREATEST OF  
THESE IS LOVE.**

1 Corinthians 13:13

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

## ENTRANCE

(bold = in unison)

Prelude

“Ashokan Farewell”

by Jay Unger

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship (Psalm 71)

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Offer God your worship and your praise.  
**Before God formed us in our mothers' wombs,  
God knew us and loved us.**  
Offer Christ your love and your devotion.  
**Before we drew our first breath, Christ consecrated us as his own.**  
Offer the Spirit your gratitude and your thanksgiving.  
**Before we heard the call to heal the world,  
the Spirit sustained our every heartbeat.**  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
**We will offer God our worship and our praise.**

Gathering Hymn

“One Lord”

by Lori True

One Lord, one faith,  
One call to serve each other.  
One heart, one mind,  
One common ground;  
We stand as one.

Centering Prayer (Jeremiah 1, 1 Corinthians 13)

Wrap us up in the arms of your love, Holy One, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch us with kindness. Open our eyes, that we may see ourselves as you see us. Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness, that our words may be true and our love may be pure. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hope all things in your love, which never ends. 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

### 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

"Come By Here"

by Kyle Pederson

### Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### Scripture in Context

### Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSV)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Three Simple Rules and You”  
“First Thing First” Worship Series 4 of 4

Rev. Nate Melcher

Sharing Our Gifts

*Your gift in-person, by mail or phone, or online at [richfieldumc.org/give](https://richfieldumc.org/give) supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.  
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“Amazing Love”

by D. Forest

## THANKSGIVING

Prayer of Gratitude

Nurturing God, You remind us that faith without love is meaningless. We present these gifts with love. We rejoice in our ability to share. May this moment of giving warm our hearts and stir our souls so that we remember to act consistently out of love in the name of Jesus. In His name, we pray. Amen.

# SENDING FORTH

Benediction

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

Postlude

“The Light from Your Eyes”

by Victor Zupanc

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



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Online-only worship is extended by one week through Sunday, February 6, 2022.** At this time, in-person worship and gatherings are scheduled to resume on February 7. Your Regathering Taskforce continues to monitor the situation, and thank you for your grace and continued support. Stay safe!

### **Today, January 30**

#### **Souper Bowl of Caring Collection Continues!**

Now through February 13, bring your donations of great soups to the church. You can also make a financial gift at [richfieldumc.org/give](https://richfieldumc.org/give).

#### **Church Conference Today Following Worship**

**Sunday, January 30 at 10:35 am by [Zoom link](#)**

Meeting ID: 881-3166-5678, Passcode: 5835 or call in: 312-626-6799

(standard rates apply) There will be a church conference after worship to receive reports and approve the 2022 operations budget. You may attend and vote online by Zoom. RSVPs aren't necessary. All worshippers and members are invited, and members have vote.

#### **Call For Lent Devotional Submissions**

**The 2022 Lent theme is "Unafraid."** Maybe you've worked through fears around a certain topic. Perhaps you're still figuring out your worries. Or maybe you've felt God in the midst of anxiety, resolved or not. However you interpret "unafraid," may you share your writing and ideas with your church.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Your reflection, poem, or prayer should be 250 words or less.
2. It must be your own original writing. Sorry, we cannot publish your favorite poem by another writer, no matter how wonderful it is!
3. Submit your writing by Sunday, February 13 to [nmelcher@richfieldumc.org](mailto:nmelcher@richfieldumc.org).

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

**Thursday, February 10th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Program: Maple Syrup: Nature's Greatest Springtime Gift**

(A decision will be made in early February as to if this program will be in-person, virtual, or hybrid).

When daytime and nighttime temperatures fluctuate above and below freezing, maple trees exude a sweet sap that North Americans have been processing into syrup for centuries. This presentation will describe the history of syruping, methods of syrup production, and factors that affect the quality of maple syrup. Our speaker, Dr. Stephen Saupe, is a professor of biology in the joint biology department of the College of St. Benedict and Saint John's University. Steve is also a judge for the maple syrup competition at the Minnesota State Fair. Please join us for this enjoyable presentation!

## **Ongoing and Open**

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

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.

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Paige Armstrong, Nancy Dierauer, Lyra Olson, Elise Parker,  
Victor Zupanc, and the Chancel Choir

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

## **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, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Bill Hillger, Sharon Morrow, Susan (SK) Johnson, Jane Parry, and Pat Norton.

**Prayers for Comfort:** All those in hospice and their families.

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

The friends and family of Helen Bodger who died on January 22, especially Chuck, Kathy, Steven, and David Bodger. A private service for immediate family only is planned.

## **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 30, 2022**

9:30 am Online-Only Worship  
10:35 am Semi-Annual Church  
Conference

### **Monday, January 31, 2022**

### **Tuesday, February 01, 2022**

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

### **Wednesday, February 02, 2022**

9:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am CFC Soccer  
7:00 pm Youth Group

### **Thursday, February 03, 2022**

### **Friday, Friday, February 04, 2022**

### **Saturday, February 05, 2022**

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

### **Sunday, February 06, 2022**

9:30 am Online-Only Worship

## **Permissions and Acknowledgements:**

- "Archbishop Desmond Tutu: A Work in Progress" Video Clip: "InterSpiritual Discussion with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu: A.M. Session, Part 1." YouTube. uploaded by UW Video, University of Washington. "Seeds of Compassion" event, April 15, 2008. Uploaded July 15, 2014. Used by written permission, UW Video, Compassion Action Network. Original full video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=it0hR5cpHLg>
- "Call to Worship" and "Centering Prayer" by Rev. B.J. Beu. Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*. © 2021 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 30-31.
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**Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational.**

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