



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm  
Ash Wednesday



**Bold = in unison**

**\*Rise in body or spirit.**

Prelude

“When We Are in Deepest Need”

by J. S. Bach

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

We gather in stubborn love, seeking to hold space  
for those whose hurts are deep and often unseen.

**God of hope, comfort your people.**

When sorrow becomes all-consuming  
and despair threatens to swallow our loved ones whole,

**God of recovery, comfort your people.**

Protect those whose bodies, spirits, and trust  
have been broken time and time again.

**God of healing, comfort your people.**

Be with those who sleep in fear and who seek shelter in the storm.

**God of hope, comfort your people.**

Strengthen the survivors among us who wrestle with doubt and depression.

**God of recovery, comfort your people.**

Grief upon grief. Tears upon tears. Pain upon pain.

**God of healing, comfort your people.**

**May those who are scarred by struggle be transformed by hope.**

Gathering Hymn “Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes” by Rae E. Whitney

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

1. Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s ashes as another Lent begins; thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins. We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray; now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!
2. We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive, have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live, we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things; may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

Centering Prayer “A Prayer for Ash Wednesday”

**Today we remember that we come from the dust both earthen and cosmic thanks to bursts of atoms billions of years old, still chasing the coattails of *kairos*. We are the heavy elements: carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, pressed and held down by the gravity of sin trapped in the stillness, waiting for nova until wind, breath, spirit fills the ordinary and everywhere with more. Today we remember that we come from the dust by listening carefully to the sound of our chests rising and falling, fragile with the wonder of dust that lives. Amen.**

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NRSV)

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Creator in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Creator who is in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Creator who is in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Yet Another Article” Rev. Nate Melcher

Invitation to Spiritual Practice Stations

Candle Lighting | Imposition of Ashes | Burden Lifting

Music During Stations: “Restoration” arr. Sorenson  
Chancel Choir

“Signed by Ashes” by K. Keil  
Gretta Thorson, soloist

Journey Prayer “For Lent” Rev. Hope Hutchison

Sending Hymn “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”  
by C. F. Hernaman/folk melody, arr. A. M. Buchanan

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Benediction

We are made in the likeness of Eternal Creativity.

Its insistence moves us into being and imagines for us worlds beyond our hopelessness.

We are made to collaborate with those around us to build deeper connections and sustainability around new ways of doing life together.

We are making space in our world for doubt and uncertainty by calling out fear and isolationism.

This is the truth about us. It always has been and always will be.

**Another world is possible and on its way. A new world is both here and arriving. We wait for it, usher it, greet it as a hopeful people. [Go forth with the God who goes forth with you.] Amen.**

Postlude “Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley” arr. R. Powell

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

## Worship each Sunday in Lent at 9:30 am

You can worship in-person,  
online at [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc),  
or by touchtone phone, 1-888-650-5835.

### Lent Daily Devotional

A Lent Daily Devotional, with submission from the RUMC community and a few other select authors, is available to you as you journey through Lent. Please take a copy as you leave service this evening. An electronic copy is available at [richfieldumc.org/devo](https://richfieldumc.org/devo). Go to [facebook.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurch](https://facebook.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurch) to enjoy the daily posts there (please like and follow the page and share the posts with your friends). Blessings to you on your Lenten journey.

**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.

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Paige Armstrong, Nancy Dierauer, Gretta Thorson, The Chancel Choir

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, Dale Olson, Steve Warner, Michele Wegscheid

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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- “A Prayer for Ash Wednesday” by Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson. *Speak It Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together*. © 2020 Fortress Press, Minneapolis, MN. 67-68.
- “For Lent” by Rev. Arianne Braithwaite Lehn. *Ash & Starlight: Prayer for the Chaos & Grace of Daily Life*. © 2019 Chalice Press, Nashville, TN. 118-119.
- “Benediction” by Zhailon Levingston. *Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice*, ed. Britney Winn Lee. Original published as “Hope: A Litany Claiming That Another World Is Possible and On Its Way.” Adapted. © 2020. Upper Room Books. Nashville, TN. 48-49.
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Richfield United Methodist Church  
5835 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55419  
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