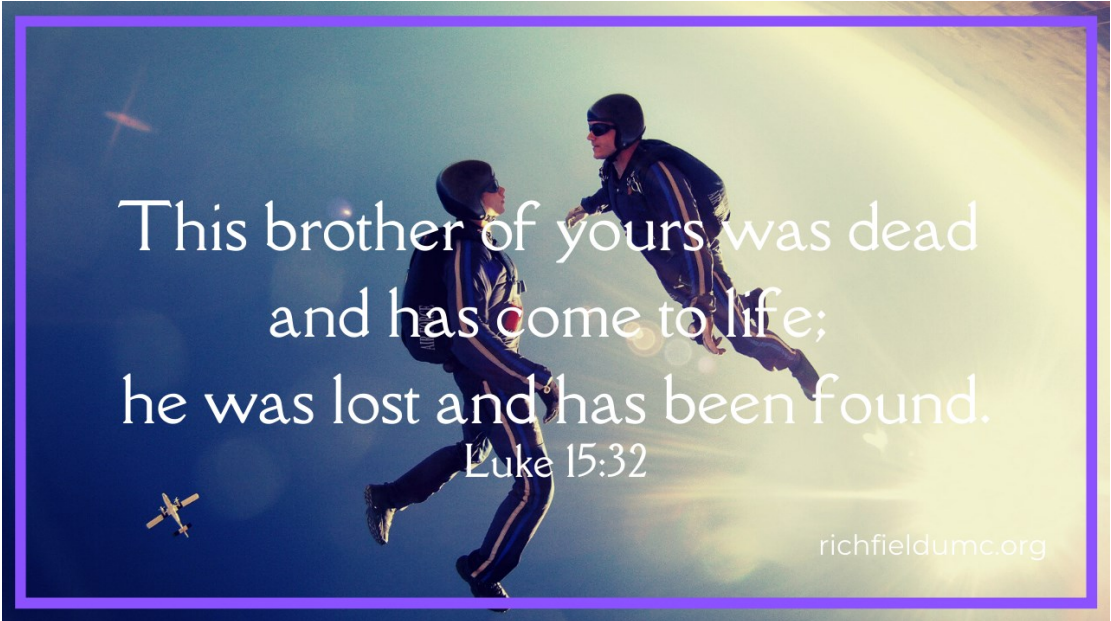




RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 27, 2022 at 9:30 am
4th Sunday of Lent



bold = in unison

***Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Corner of the Sky" by Stephen Schwartz

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15) Rev. Hope Hutchison

Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

Like a forgiving Parent and Guardian,

God welcomes us home with open arms.

In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

Come, let us worship the One who makes all things new.

Gathering Hymn* “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Day” UM Hymnal No. 269
Vs. 1, 4, 5

Please remember to wear your mask when we are singing as a church during in-person worship due to pandemic concerns. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.
4. And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Centering Prayer (Luke 15)

Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture; you call out to all who have strayed. As the father welcomed the prodigal son home, receive us back into your loving arms. Like the woman who searches for the lost coin, seek us out. Your loving embrace is always there for us. Be with us in our time of worship, that we may feel your presence and know that you are our true home. 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

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.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)

Rev. Lynn Borgeson

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is

Prayer of Gratitude

Patient God, we cherish the scripture story of the prodigal son. You are always willing to accept us, even in our bleakest moment. You surround us with the hushed silence of your love. Like a compassionate parent, you wait to receive us in your embrace while we struggle to place you first in our lives. Multiply these tithes and offerings so that they open the ears of your lost children to your message of unconditional love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Lord of the Dance”
Vs. 1, 2, 5

UM Hymnal No. 261

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came to me and the dance went on. (Refrain)

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (Refrain)

Benediction

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

Postlude

“What's Going On”

by Marvin Gaye

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, March 27

UMCOR Sunday

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

Sunday School

Today children leave worship following the Time with Children for Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. As always, children are welcome in worship. Contact: Rev. Hope, hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

Confirmation class immediately following worship in the Grace Room.

Youth Group This Wednesday, March 30

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.

2022 Easter Flower Donations

You are invited to honor your loved ones by giving towards the flowers for this year's Easter celebration. An order form can be found in the Commons Area or on the back of the March/April edition of the Heartline newsletter. Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, April 10 to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

Easter Egg Hunt

Come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9 from 2-4pm! Servant Volunteers are needed to help stuff eggs ahead of time or donate candy. On 4/9, you can help with crafts, games, or welcoming new people onto our beautiful campus. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/5853c9ct>. If you have questions contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

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

Thursday, April 14, 1:00-2:00 pm

Program: "Vanishing Landmarks", with speaker Doug Ohman

Both in-person and online; the church bus will be available. For in-person, please RSVP by April 12. Sign-up sheet located on the table in the commons area or contact Nurse Kay, 612-861-6086 or kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

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

Ongoing and Open

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

April 4: *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

Contact Fern Albertson, wfalbertson@gmail.com, to get connected.

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

Contact Molly Reko, mollyreko@comcast.net, to get connected.

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

Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

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

Contact Kent Johnson, 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.

Time with Children - Children of all ages are invited to experience a message just for them. Parent/guardians are welcome to join their children too.

Sunday School - Following 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.

Our prayers are a beautiful expression of care and solidarity for each other.

We pray in celebration.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who are ill: Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Joyce Walls, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Bill Hillger, Jane Parry, Sandy Nelson, Curtis Stull's stepson, Robert McCoy, and Bev Crandall.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Maxene Schwanke.

We pray for those who grieve.

We pray for our neighbors.

We pray for all in the RUMC community.

Please call the church office to be included in any of the prayers of our church.

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, March 27, 2022

9:30 am Worship
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Indoor Sunday School
10:40 am Confirmation

Monday, March 28, 2022

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

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

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am CFC Soccer
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Youth Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Friday, April 01, 2022

10:00 am CFC Soccer

Saturday, April 02, 2022

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

Sunday, April 03, 2022

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

Holy Week and Easter worship services in-person and online:

Palm Sunday: April 10 at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday: April 14 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 15 at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil: April 16 (online-only, 2021
rebroadcast)

Easter Sunday: April 17 at 9:30 am

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Lyra Olson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Dale Olson, Michele Wegscheid

Please let the church office know if you or someone from the church is hospitalized or immediately pre or post hospitalization. As care team member in-person visits are on hold, the care extended by the Parish Minister team will come in a phone call or handwritten note. The Parish Minister for the week of March 27 is Dave Couillard.

Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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Richfield United Methodist Church
5835 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55419
612-861-6086 | richfieldumc.org

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational.

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.