2022 ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Tidings of Comfort & Joy

RICHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA richfieldumc.org/devo

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to a tradition that has brought comfort and joy to so many - the Advent daily devotional presented by Richfield United Methodist Church! It seems only fitting that this year's theme is Tidings of Comfort and Joy. "Tidings" is one of those words you don't get to use very much. It's an archaic word for "news," and the greatest news of the Advent/Christmas season is the arrival of Jesus the Christ child, the One who arrives for all humankind. Likewise, it has been a tough season in so many ways and sharing stories of comfort and joy can sometimes appear to be in short supply. May this collection bring comfort and joy back into the world! This year's contributors were asked to think about what brings them "comfort and joy" and to share these tidings, this news, with you. Enjoy a selection of liturgy, prose, poetry, and photography all throughout Advent.

This devotional booklet is assembled with rhythms and patterns to give you tether on your Advent journey. Sundays feature the Advent wreath liturgy for worship as we light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Faith. They are inspired by the Psalms of the Advent scriptures of the Revised Common Lectionary curated by Vanderbilt University (lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu) and the classic Christmas carol, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. You may see some familiar images or turns of phrase from these inspirational sources.

Each week features at least one prose piece, plus a couple poems. We have more photography this year than last, and you'll find each week features at least one if not

two photos to ponder. As we've done in recent devotionals, you'll find a list of suggested daily scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary curated by Vanderbilt University (lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu). There isn't any intended connection with the submitted writings and photos. Rather, it's an opportunity to do daily thematic scripture reading and know many others around the world join you in reading the same scripture.

This daily devotional isn't just in print and online as a full PDF booklet. You can also find entries at the Richfield UMC Facebook page (facebook.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurch), where this devotional will appear each day through Christmas. Of course, you're encouraged to share these posts and bless your friends with the creativity of your church. If you want to explore past daily devos, we've archived recent years' booklets at richfieldumc.org/devo.

God is devoted to you daily. May this daily devotional be a tether of hope, peace, joy, and faith for you in this season of Advent. Blessings to you!

In Christ, Rev. Nate Melcher Senior Pastor

P.S. The Lent 2023 daily devotional is just around the corner. We'll need 47 entries around the theme "Unwavering Love," based on the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine. Pray, think, and write!

All writings and photography are the intellectual property of its author. Used with permission. Please contact the church to seek permission to reprint or use any of this material, thank you.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL 2022

WEEK	
11/27	"Tidings of Hope" 6 Rev. Nate Melcher
11/28	"Bison and Birthday Goats" 7 Gertie Melcher
11/29	"Birthday Reflection" 8 Meg Spicher
11/30	"Kowakan Tree"
12/01	"Folded Notes"
12/02	"A New Solid House"
12/03	"Quiet Contemplation"
WEEK	II
12/04	"Tidings of Peace"
12/05	"Dream Food"
12/06	"Fear Not" part 1
12/07	"Ice River"
12/08	"At Least Ten Blessings"
12/09	"Who We Meet"
12/07	"Who We Meet"

WE	:EK	Ш		
42	144	" T:	-1 ·	

12/11	Rev. Nate Melcher	20		
12/12	"Autumn's Song"			
12/13	"December Night" Orlean Kovach			
12/14	"Fall Path" Jen Pacyga			
12/15	"Some of the Best News" Andi Olson			
12/16	"Beyond Traditions"	25		
12/17	"I Ask You"	26		
WEEK IV				
12/18	"Tidings of Faith"	27		
12/19	"God's Light" Jerry Schilling	28		
12/20	"Fear Not" part 2			
12/21	"Double Bridge" Jen Pacyga	30		
12/22	"H E L L O - a Wordle Story" Sara Watne			
12/23	"Cookie Baking Day"			
12/24	"Tidings of Love"	33		
12/25	"Tidings of Comfort and Joy" Rev. Nate Melcher	34		

Sunday, November 27, 2022 "Tidings of Hope" by Rev. Nate Melcher

We gather in the season of Advent, a season of Hope.

Let us be glad in that which binds us firmly together.
Peace prevails in this place.
Peace be within you.
God keeps our merriness up and turns us from dismay.
We await the one to be born, the one who saves.
Tidings of comfort and joy fill the winter air.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope. For the sake of the LORD, let us seek out the good of God! May Hope light up this world. Amen.

<u>Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;</u> Matthew 24:36-44

Monday, November 28, 2022 "Bison and Birthday Goats" by Gertie Melcher



This summer we went to the Black Hills and I loved seeing all of the animals. Custer State Park had a huge herd of bison. We asked a park ranger where to find them and he told us the last place he had heard they were. We drove a little way and he was right, there were hundreds of bison! They got really close to our van and we took a lot of pictures. Later we went to Camp Koronis and I met some goats on my birthday. They thought we were going to feed them so they got up on the fence but we didn't have anything. It's fun seeing cute animals in person!



Psalm 124; Genesis 8:1-19; Romans 6:1-11

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 "Birthday Reflection" by Meg Spicher

When looking, the glass is half full.
The mirror reflects the lines of time past.
My hands tremble on the keys...
Age is only a number falls short,
Of the truth.

The number is cold and the truth Not fully told.
The smiles hidden in my eyes
Tell of a deeper place within,
Beyond days and nights.

Find the garden of hope
Pull the weeds of our distractions.
Walk with my head high
Gray and full of wisdom.

Hold the hands of children And let the road unfold to new vistas. Look westward then turn to the east And go home.

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 "Kowakan Tree" by Jen Pacyga

The Creator is present in all of the complexities of life, Be thankful!

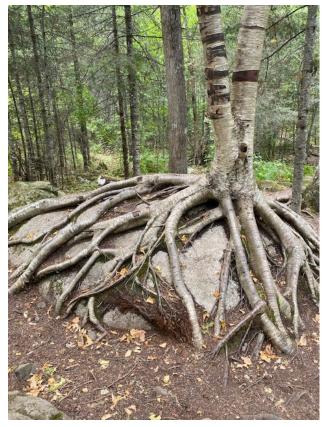


Photo taken on a hike while at Camp Kowakan in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Psalm 124; Isaiah 54:1-10; Matthew 24:23-35

Thursday, December 1, 2022 "Folded Notes" by Rev. Wayne Albertson

About 59 years ago I boarded an overnight train, the Empire State Limited, as I left home near Albany, NY to go to Michigan State University. My parents, sister, and brother took me to the train station to see me off. As I boarded the train, my thenteenaged sister managed to be the last person to say good-bye. As she did so, she pressed a piece of paper in my hand and whispered to me, "Read this when you get to Michigan." I put the paper in my pocket till I arrived and then read it.

On the folded paper, Elaine had written Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to show mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." That is quite a gift from a 16 year old sister. I have never forgotten it. The words may seem more demanding than comforting or joyful. I offer it here because there is comfort and joy in the motive with which I was given these last words as I left home. I still feel gratitude that someone would offer a gift of such love as to give holy direction for my life that would lead it in a way God intends for our humanity. The "tiding" of comfort and joy lies in its intentionality.

You might take some moments to name the "Elaines" of your life, or those who helped you leave home.

<u>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6;</u> Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Friday, December 2, 2022 "A New Solid House" by Rev. Kent Johnson

One of the most joyous things you can do is go on a mission trip. It rewards in so many ways beyond just the pleasure of doing something useful for someone else. The nay-sayers assume that we think we are helping others and are not aware of our own motivations for doing a mission trip. We do it because it is wonderful for us in so many ways. They suggest that more work could be done if we just sent the money we use for travel directly to them. This is true and will work when I am too old to travel. But how would I know who to send money to if I had not been with them over the last 8 years? Sue and I have spent one week a year building houses in the Dominican Republic because it brings us joy. A small side effect is that after 4 days of work 3 families, chosen by their congregations, each have a new solid house with lockable doors. I suppose we could vacation at an island resort instead, but I don't think it would be as joy filled. Think about trying a mission trip for your own joy.



Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25

Saturday, December 3, 2022 "Quiet Contemplation" by Orlean Kovach

December can be hectic we have so much to do preparing for Christmas we don't have a clue

We strive for perfection keep raising the bar but the one whose birth we celebrate accepts us as we are

Some quiet contemplation will go a long way as we remember the reason we celebrate the day

<u>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11;</u> <u>John 1:19-28</u>

Sunday, December 4, 2022 "Tidings of Peace" by Rev. Nate Melcher

We gather in the season of Advent, a season of Peace.

On the mountains and in the grass, through the sun and the rain, Blessed be the LORD who defends, delivers, does wondrous things. God sends news from the heavens to the shepherds. The name they speak throughout the land is a blessing to all. Tidings of comfort and joy fill the winter air.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace.
Blessed be the name of God forever and fill the whole earth!
May Peace light up this world. Amen.

<u>Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;</u> <u>Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1</u>-12

Monday, December 5, 2022 "Dream Food" by Jim Vetsch

Dream food

You feed my dream world with images of noble life Not Jericho walls falling.

Or Goliaths dying,

But children standing tall and confident

Parents sharing wisdom

And ancestors finding pride that their

lessons took root.

You show me burning bushes everywhere

And whole fields of holy ground

Indeed Lord, you took away my heart of stone

The heart of flesh you gave me is a drumbeat.

It echoes everywhere, reminding me of your presence, my promise.

You gave me work to do and gifts to do that work.

And my dream is a gift, too,

Even when I fill my ears with dirt,

I can hear you sing.

Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 "Fear not." part 1 by Jim Vetsch

Why so glum, my friend? Asked the angel. Not glum. Depressed. Depressed? About what? Look around you, angel. You and the universe have served up a tasty bit of life for we folks in your habitat!

Angry too, I see.
Need some help?
No thanks. I already asked and there was no answer.
No answer..?
Look at me!
I am here!

But you can't help.
You won't help!
I asked!
I prayed!
And your prayer?
What did you offer up to the most high?

Why. To make it go away. All of it. The scary stuff!

Scary, you say. So you are afraid?

Of course I am.
The world is hostile and uncaring, and I am its victim!

Tell me what it is you fear. I don't have much money. I could lose my job. I could catch this godawful virus.

What about your maker. Will you lose that too? I don't think so. But who knows? I know.

Did he not say to you, "behold I am with you always, even unto the end of the earth?"

Well, yeah.

Part 2 on December 20, page 29 7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22;

15

<u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22;</u> Galatians 4:1-7

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 "Ice River" by Jen Pacyga

Find a pattern to life.



Photo taken at the frozen Nine Mile Creek in Harrison Park, Bloomington, MN

Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 8, 2022 "At Least Ten Blessings" by Rev. Nate Melcher

I remember a moment in elementary school when we were told that, on average, we would likely each end up living in many, many places in our lifetime. I cannot recall the exact number, but it was at least ten places - a number that to my young ears was too big to be believed. At the time, yes, we'd moved to another town once. And in that town we ended up renting one home before buying another, so that was three houses so far. But surely, I would never end up in ten or more. Don't people just find a place and stay there forever? Isn't that just what people do?

So much for predictions. By my count, I'm currently at eighteen. Childhood homes (3), residence hall rooms (6), a house with friends for the summer (2), a summer of couch surfing (1), apartments (4), a rented townhouse (1), and a house (1). Certainly, there will be more...

That's a lot of keys. A lot of front steps. Plenty of boxes and trailers and sweat equity. A lot of places to, at the end of the day, simply have a seat and take a breath.

It's one of the greatest blessings of my life. That more often than not, over the many years and the many homes, they have been places I was (and am) safe to simply have a seat and take a breath. If I'm not careful, I can undervalue such a blessing, as if that's just what people do. If I can take my blessing and share it with our children as their blessing, perhaps they will share it with their children someday, too.

When they hear their generation's projected stats someday, will it seem unbelievable to their young ears? Because they've already lived in three and two places each. Certainly, there will be more...

Friday, December 9, 2022 "Who We Meet" by Rev. Kent Johnson

Fall election time is depressing because negative ads on all the media remind us how divided we can be as a people. As an antidote today I want to suggest you take some time looking at this picture. Three days before this picture was taken these people didn't know each other, lived thousands of miles apart, spoke different languages, had different nationalities. had different expressions of the Christian faith, and yet, after a couple of days working together building a house, they are fast friends posing for the camera. There is joy to be found this Advent in the new people we take time to meet.



Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, December 10, 2022 "When Noise Disappears" by Rev. Wayne Albertson

When noise disappears we turn inside, attentive to searchings and imaginings propped up by fears and hopes of unknown importance, to random memories and fantasies intruding in those streams of neurons flowing as thought into awareness from the dark wherevers of mystery, all unplanned foci of the mind in the absence of distraction, de facto entertainments de moment, unless a habit, a rhythm of discipline purposed into being provides a destiny of openness towards what might emerge to immerse our lives in hope or meaning, gratitude or serenity, the freedom of meditation that comes when noise Disappears.

Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Sunday, December 11, 2022 "Tidings of Joy" by Rev. Nate Melcher

We gather in the season of Advent, a season of Joy.

God who made heaven and earth and keeps faith forever, champion justice, uplift the forgotten, bring freedom to all.
In the tempest storm and wind, your message remains clear.
We rejoice in this journey to seek the holy around us.
Tidings of comfort and joy fill the winter air.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy.
The LORD is here forever, known for all generations!
May Joy light up this world. Amen.

<u>Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10;</u> <u>James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11</u>

Monday, December 12, 2022 "Autumn's Song" by Meg Spicher

Twilight sky
Crisp wind autumn sings...
Tune is mellow
I am nostalgic...
For warmer days and longer walks.
The clock ticks on
Roads fill with fallen leaves...

It's a peaceful time of Quiet acquiescence. Long shadows cascade and The landscape is a blaze.

Seasons mark the year Building our mental structure. Keeping us on track to Embrace our next adventure.

Be still, listen, the leaves sing
Autumn's song...
They whisper and ride on the wind
As the earth turns the page
Endless chapters of the infinite story
Life's continuum is everlasting.

Psalm 42; Isaiah 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 "December Night" by Orlean Kovach

The day had been hectic
as it came to an end
I stepped out of doors
in search of some calm
It was a crisp clear winter night
The stars above were shining bright
It seemed so peaceful
As I took in the sight
I paused for a moment
To think of that long ago night
when Heaven touched earth
and God became man
As a virgin gave birth

Psalm 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 1:17-25

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 "Fall Path" by Jen Pacyga

Walk with the Creator.



Photo taken at the Hosta Glade at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN

<u>Psalm 42; Zechariah 8:1-17;</u> Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

Thursday, December 15, 2022 "Some of the Best News" by Andi Olson

I think the best news that I have ever received was when our second child, Nick, got the results of his CT scan at his one-year checkup. Nick was born with some bleeding and scarring on his brain and every day of his first year of life I worried. I worried if he would ever walk, talk or be able to keep up with his peers his same age.

As he started to hit the milestones, the worry became less and less but it was always in the back of my thoughts. I can still remember what his doctor said to us (a little over 14 years ago) at that appointment, "Take him home and love him, just love him and be his mom." The scarring was shrinking as they had suspected and he was hitting all his milestones so this was the best news they could hope for.

The brain is a wonderful organ, it can protect us and heal us when we are needing it. We have no more check ups for the scarring or bleeding as he has been "cleared" from the doctors for these issues. Both of our kids are miracles but this appointment and the words the doctor said will always be some of the BEST news I ever received!

<u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17;</u> Galatians 3:23-29

Friday, December 16, 2022 "Beyond Traditions" by Rev. Kent Johnson

Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation of the joy that is coming. We look ahead to our Christmas remembrance of Jesus' birth filled with many traditions. We listen for the music that we know by heart, the pageants and festivals, the visits from friends and family, the concerts and plays, seeing Charlie Brown and Rudolf and *It's a Wonderful Life*, and lighting a candle on Christmas Eve. In our own way each of us finds the things that bring us comfort and Joy. Even in the difficult years there are moments of joy for us.

I like this picture of my great niece because it reminds me to look back farther than just our traditions to find joy. To remember that joy once was as simple as playing with your tongue. As I look forward during this Advent, I want to anticipate that there will be simple moments of joy when I least expect them. Be alert, love is

coming!



<u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22;</u> Galatians 4:1-7

Saturday, December 17, 2022 "I Ask You" by Rev. Wayne Albertson

I ASK YOU

not to read this poem quickly, or fast, or in a hurry. Please do not scan it, or distract yourself looking for rhymes. (There are none.) I prefer you slow your pace. Let your reading match the moments of life that come along with their own time; for this is about what people do with the necessity, the reverence and needed intention of slowness. It's about people who study the Mona Lisa; who nurse their babies; who listen to Handel's 'Largo' or Pachelbel's 'Canon'; who carry a casket from hearse to grave; who stare at a unity candle after their marriage yows: who listen to the silence of a Quaker meeting or the worship of a Taizé community; who sip the morning's second cup of tea and read their grandchild's third grade poem. I ask you not to read life quickly.

<u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29;</u> John 3:31-36

Sunday, December 18, 2022 "Tidings of Faith" by Rev. Nate Melcher

We gather in the season of Advent, a season of Faith.

A vision shines bright and stirs something in us.
God knows our name, gives us life, bears our pains.
We pray to the Spirit and find what we are looking for.
We discover a Savior not in the palace, but in the manger.
Tidings of comfort and joy fill the winter air.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Faith.
Restore us, save us, reveal to us your face, O LORD!
May Faith light up this world. Amen.

<u>Isaiah 7:10-16</u>; <u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</u>; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Monday, December 19, 2022 "God's Light" by Jerry Schilling

As we enter this Advent Season, we need to take the time to enjoy the blessings that surround us every day.

My greatest joy is to be with family and friends, surrounded by laughter, smiley faces, and good times. That's when I feel God's grace, mercy, and love.

As I wake up every day, I know that God has equipped me to succeed, he has given me the vision to win, has given me the perseverance to overcome obstacles, and blessed me with prosperity; truly my wondrous path of light and joy.

I have come to understand that I will have pain and suffering but I know that God is always present, and understands and feels my pain. I am comforted with the knowledge that God is with me during good times and bad. This gives me joy.

I find joy in coming to our campus, and seeing hard working, dedicated CFC staff.

I find joy in seeing smiling children as they parade through church, on their way to soccer, going to lunch, going outdoors to the play area, or up to the sanctuary.

I find joy seeing repairs and improvements to our campus, knowing that to have future growth, we need a safe and inviting environment.

I find joy in knowing that we have dedicated clergy and staff that gives us spiritual guidance, as well as overseeing daily operations.

I find joy in having confidence in our volunteers, knowing that they can be relied upon to perform their many duties and tasks..

I find joy that God is watching over us; the ultimate comforter, blessing us with unconditional love.

God's light is always on; it is our job to uncover it, and keep it uncovered.

1 Samuel 2:1-10: Genesis 17:15-22: Galatians 4:8-20

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 "Fear not." part 2 by Jim Vetsch

Listen to me!

You say you're worried about money and a job.

Did you ever have to leave a job before?

Well, yes.

And how did that go?

I found a new job.

And was it the end of your world?

No.

And were you hopeful you would survive?

Yes.

And why not now?

Where is your hope?

Where is your faith?

And have you ever been sick?

And did you survive?

Yes.

Where is your hope?

Where is your faith?

Now, what is it that the statement I am with you always mean?

I guess it means I'm not alone

Then. Can you guess what I will tell you?

Be not afraid, probably.

But can't you just make the scary stuff go away?

And if the universe adjusted to be less fearful,

what would that make you?

Not afraid?

Really?

Not me.

So, listen to me.

The world is a real and busy place.

It is full of blessings for the taking.

And the thorns of fear are always available.

Like love, fear can be a consuming emotion.

But love blesses and nourishes both

The lover and the beloved.

If you want to be less fearful, choose love.

I choose faith and hope and love.

The magic of the vision lies in the sharing of the dream.

Part 1 on December 6, page 15

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 21:1-21; Galatians 4:21-5:1

29

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 "Double Bridge" by Jen Pacyga

The Creator can guide a bridge crossing regardless of size. The Creator is always present!

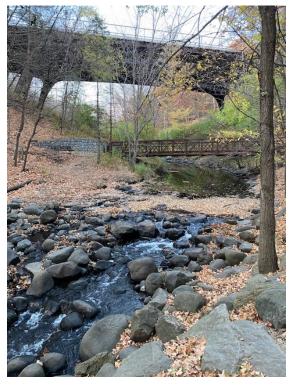


Photo taken along Nine Mile Creek in Harrison Park, Bloomington, MN

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 37:2-11; Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday, December 22, 2022 "H E L L O (A Wordle Story)" by Sara Watne

When my recently departed sister Hope first became ill two years ago I felt helpless. How could I be of service to her, living in another city almost 100 miles away? Well, through the wonders of technology I learned there are all sorts of ways to set up systems of helping from afar: caring bridge, gofundme, meal train to name a few. One of the simplest things I felt led to was reaching out via text messages by phone to Hope's kids on a weekly basis. I have fiercely loved these kids, now young adults, all their lives. In fact, I told Hope many times over the years that the role of aunt was the finest gift she ever gave me, way back when I was single and childless myself. So it was a service to her and her kids, but also to me, to begin these weekly texts, just checking in and letting them know that their aunt was holding them in her heart and mind.

Some weeks I got short but sweet responses, other times funny meme pictures or gif animated images. Sometimes we went straight to the old-fashioned telephone so we could more fully express all the emotions of this most difficult journey. Surprisingly, one connection that has persisted is the sharing of our scores on Wordle, a daily game to guess the 5-letter word in 6 tries or less. Yes, the exchange of our Wordle results has now become a DAILY routine with my nephew and now even his girlfriend. On the surface this might seem like just a fun diversion, a way to fill a minute or two, but we know the real message will always be, "Hello there, I'm thinking of you and loving you across time and space."

<u>Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22;</u> Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

Friday, December 23, 2022 "Cookie Baking Day" by Rev. Kent Johnson

In the darkness of the Advent season, some of the most comforting things are the annual traditions. These are the pleasurable activities that we do only this time of year that we can anticipate, prepare for, talk about, take pictures of, and enjoy.

One of our newer traditions is to invite people to a Christmas cookie baking day. It takes a lot of preparation time, but everyone works together surrounded by Christmas music and they all take home boxes of cookies to share.

Developing this tradition has taught us two things about traditions. The first is that traditions don't have to be old. If you do something a second time it is a tradition. The second is that flexibility and change are good. Each year's cookie party has had some different people attending and the children are all a year older. Each year is a unique experience filled with its own unique memories.

Even though it has been a tradition for some years it is never the same. What tradition would you like to start or continue this year?



Luke 1:46b-55; 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29; Galatians 3:6-14

Saturday, December 24, 2022 "Tidings of Love" by Rev. Nate Melcher

We gather in the season of Advent, a season of Love.

Sing with praise, give thanks for beauty and sanctuary. Sing of God's marvelous works among all the peoples. Sing praises to the LORD, all you within this place. Embrace one another in love and kinship forever. Tidings of comfort and joy fill the winter air.

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ Candle. The Son of the LORD is here with truth and righteousness! May Christ light up this world. Amen.



<u>Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;</u> Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Sunday, December 25, 2022 "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" by Rev. Nate Melcher

Do not be afraid.
There is good news of great joy.
Good news for all people.
Good news for them.
Good news for you.

Do not be afraid.

Peace on earth as it is in heaven.

Peace for all people.

Peace for them.

Peace for you.

Do not be afraid.
Jesus has arrived this Christmas Day.
Jesus for all people.
Jesus for them.
Jesus for you.

Merry Christmas! Be blessed in tidings of comfort and joy! God's blessings!

<u>Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98;</u> <u>Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12);</u> John 1:1-14

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Sundays in Advent Worship at 9:30 am In-Person, Online, and by Phone November 27, December 4, 11, 18

∞

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP Saturday, December 24 In-Person, Online, and by Phone

4:00 pm Family Worship with musician Victor Zupanc and a shadow puppet show.

9:00 pm Traditional Worship features organ, Chancel Choir, and a string quartet.

You can worship in-person, online at youtube.com/richfieldumc, or by touchtone phone, 1-888-650-5835.

∞

Online-Only Worship Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2022 New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023 youtube.com/richfieldumc 888.650.5835

Richfield United Methodist Church 5835 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419 richfieldumc.org (612) 861-6086