



*** Please rise in body or spirit.**

Prelude “He Shall Feed His Flock” [from: “Messiah”] by G. F. Handel
 “The Shepherds’ Farewell” by H. Berlioz
 String quartet

Welcome	Rev. Nate Melcher
Lighting the Advent Wreath	The Candle of Faith
	David and Mary Martha Butler

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.

Time with Children Rev. Hope Hutchison

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.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Gathering Hymn “Once in Royal David’s City” UM Hymnal #250
vs. 1 Brad Gardner, vs. 2 Chancel Choir, vs. 3-4 All

3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

First Lesson “Jeremiah 23:5-6” David Butler
Carol “The Holly and the Ivy” arr. Parker-Shaw

Text:

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.
Oh, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.
The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.
and the running of the deer, sweet singing in the choir.
The holly bears a prickly thorn, And Mary bore Jesus on Christmas morn.
Oh, the rising of the sun, O the running of the deer,
O the playing of the merry organ, singing in the choir.
The holly bears a bark As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ. For to redeem us all.
Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

Second Lesson Isaiah 11:1-5 Rev. Nate Melcher

Hymn “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH No. 216

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Orlean Kovach

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*

Carol “And the Glory of the Lord” [from: “Messiah”] G. F. Handel

Text:

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it
Together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:6-9

Greg Locke

Hymn “O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines” UMH No. 729

1. O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Susan Johnson

Carol “The Annunciation” arr. T. Fettke

Text:

Love Came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine,
Love was born at Christmas, Gabriel gave to us a sign.
Gabriel said to Mary, “God is with you, be at peace.
You shall bear His Son whose rule of love will never cease.

Mary said to Gabriel. “I’m a servant of the Lord.,
Let it happen to me now according to His Word.”
Thankful for God’s favor and the promise of His Word.

Mary sang a song to praise the greatness of the Lord.
My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
Holy is His name.

Sixth Lesson	Luke 2:1-12	Rev. Ruth Phelps
Carol	“The Infant King”	Basque Noel/arr. Wilcox
Seventh Lesson	Luke 2:13-20	Nick Dewey
Anthem	“The Angels Carol”	by J. Rutter
Eighth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-11	Pat Doncavage

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Hymn	“Go, Tell is on the Mountain”	UMH No. 251
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Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. (Refrain)**
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)**
- 3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

Ninth Lesson	John 1:1-4	Rev. Nate Melcher
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Carol	“Wonderful Peace” G. Nordquis/English text: Norman Luboff
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Text:

Peace, peace, wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given.
Hushed are the angels, so still is the night.
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
Join in the chorus, His praises sing! Glory to God, to the newly born King!
Peace, peace, bearer of peace. All of good will receive him.
Holiest of nights. O most wond'rous of days.
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
Join in the chorus. His praises sing! Glory to God to the newly born King!
Peace, peace, wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given!

Sermon	“Tidings of Peace” “Tidings of Comfort and Joy” Worship Series 4 of 4	Rev. Nate Melcher
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THANKSGIVING

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

SENDING FORTH

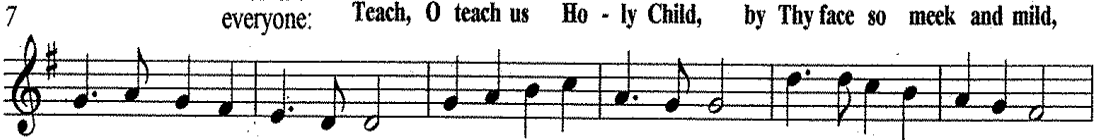
Sending Hymn✱

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

by J. Goss/arr. D. Wilcocks



choir: See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low:
congregation, choir: Lo, with - in a man - ger lies, He who built the star - ry skies,
all men: As we watch'd at dead of night, Lo, we saw a won - drous light,
all women: Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was thine,
everyone: Teach, O teach us Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,



See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, Promis'd from e - ter - nal years. Hail thou e - ver bless - ed morn,
He who throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim. Chorus:
An - gels sing - ing "Peace On Earth" told us of the Sav - ior's birth. (all on vs. 2-5)
thus to come from high - est bliss, Down to such a world as this.
13 Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee, In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail redemption's hap - py dawn: Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem. Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

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Benediction✱

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

Postlude

“In Dulci Jubilo”

by J. S. Bach



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, December 18

Lessons and Carols featuring the Chancel Choir and a string quartet.

Sunday School Christmas Party—Following the Time with Children.

Muffins available on Sunday, December 18. Muffins are \$3 or 2 for \$5. The proceeds above the cost of the muffins goes toward funding for Children and Youth scholarships (VBS, camp, mission trips, etc.).

Christmas Eve Worship—Saturday, December 24, 2022

Worship on Christmas Eve in-person, online, and by phone. Both services feature the same sermon, the Nativity story, music, and “Silent Night” by candlelight.

4:00 pm Family-Friendly Worship features Victor Zupanc, a guest violinist and a special time with children. Nursery care available.

9:00 pm Traditional Worship featuring the Chancel Choir and a string quartet.

Online-Only Worship on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835—There will be online-only worship with no in-person option on Sundays December 25, 2022 and January 1, 2023.

Youth Group resumes Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Youth Group continues on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in the Grace Room.

New Worship Series #5: “HALF TRUTHS” January 8-February 5

There are simple phrases that *sound* Christian and like they’re in the Bible. Cliché phrases like “Everything happens for a reason” or “God won’t give you more than you can handle” can hurt instead of help. In worship this January, we will compare common Christian clichés with scriptural wisdom to find God’s truth.

New Adult Class Begins in January (coincides with sermon series)

Book & Video Study: Half Truths (Two Options Thursdays or Sundays)

Pick up your free copy on Christmas Eve of Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say.

Thursdays at 7:30pm-8:30pm by Zoom (online-only)

1/5 through 2/2—Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 Passcode: 5835

Sundays at 10:40am-11:30am, Grace Room (in-person only) 1/8 through 2/5

Children’s Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 8, 2023

Children go to Sunday School from worship after the Time for Children

Pub Theology—First Sundays at 7:00pm-8:00pm (in-person only)

New Location for 1st Quarter 2023: Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423 (ramp parking)

Next Gatherings: January 8 (2nd Sunday), February 5, March 5

This monthly drop-in group to discusses faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

Ongoing and Open

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

January 9th: discussion of potential books for the 2023 schedule
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 in a sensory friendly environment.

Art Cart - Children can use items from the cart while worshipping in the Nook or can fill a bag with items to take into the sanctuary during worship

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

Sunday School - Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet Sunday school teachers in the Nook. Sunday school is held in the Fellowship Hall or outside (weather-dependent). There is no Sunday School on 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 Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Joyce Walls, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Jane Parry, Agnes Danzl, Connie Gillespie, Derek, nephew of Susan and SK Johnson, Bill Mosher, brother of Lori Claussen, Ann, niece of David Butler, Joanne Green, Betsy Petersen, daughter of Mary Kay Petersen, Dorothy DeFreese, and Rhonda Olson.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Bill Hillger.

We pray for those who grieve: The family and friends of RUMC member Pat Steffer.

Service arrangements are pending.

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, December 18, 2022

Muffin Fundraiser for children and Youth Scholarships

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School

Monday, December 19, 2022

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Friday, December 23, 2022

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

Worship in-person, online, and by phone

4:00 pm Family-Friendly Worship Service features Victor Zupanc, a guest violinist and a special time with children. Nursery care available.

9:00 pm Traditional Worship Service features music from the Chancel Choir and a string quartet.

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

9:30 am Online-Only Worship Service

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Tanner VanderKrabben

1st violin, Carolyn Liptak, viola, Ginny Bement, 2nd violin, Rachel Jensen, cello, Pat Norton, oboe, Sarah Lume

Liturgists: David and Mary Martha Butler, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

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

Please let the church office know if you or someone from the church is hospitalized or immediately pre or post hospitalization. The pastoral care team is available to extend care and provide support in times of need. The Parish Minister for the week of Dec. 18 is Merry Rendahl.

Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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