



December 24, 2022 at 4:00 pm  
Christmas Eve



bold = in unison

✱ Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude

“Dark Night of the Soul”

by Lorena McKennitt

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Melcher Family

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.**

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Glorious God, in the beauty of holiness we await the coming of your Son. A people who walked in the shadow have seen a great light. Through the seed of David and nurtured in the womb of Mary, you sent a glorious hope to break forth upon the horizon. The light of truth pierces all that is untrue. The light of justice breaks through the clouds of injustice. The light of mercy outshines the shadow of despair. In the stillness we await your Light, Holy God - that Light is Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Creator, the Prince of Peace! Come, Lord Jesus, come. We have made room for you. Hear us as we pray your prayer...

The Lord's Prayer

Our God, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

Hymn

**“O Come All Ye Faithful”**  
vs. 1 and 3

UM Hymnal # 234

1. **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)**

Time with Children

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn

**“In the Bleak Midwinter”**  
vs. 1 and 4

UM Hymnal # 221

1. **In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**
4. **What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:8-14

Hymn

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**  
vs. 1-2 [congregation ring bells on refrain]

UM Hymnal # 238

1. **Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)**

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:15-20

Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UM Hymnal # 240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Sermon "GLHV, GG, and MC" Rev. Nate Melcher

### Sharing Our Gifts

*This year's special Christmas Eve offering supports  
Growing Hope Globally, Twin Cities Food Justice, and new Richfield UMC  
ministry initiatives in 2023. Make your special gift in-person,  
by mail or phone, or online: [richfieldumc.org/give](https://richfieldumc.org/give).  
Thank you for your extravagant generosity in the spirit of Christmas.*

Solo "He Is Born"

Doxology "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)  
[ring bells]

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

### Prayer of Gratitude

Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with these monetary gifts. We know that everything in this world is a gift from you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion of these gifts to you. We pray that these gifts may help this church to change people's lives and to spread your message of salvation. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray. Amen.

### Sharing the Light

*Please tip your unlit candle  
to the lit flame of your neighbor, please use caution.*

Solo "Happy Christmas" by John Lennon

1. **Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
3. **Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, the Lord, at thy birth.**
4. **Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Benediction\***

**Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare God's wonderful works among all peoples.**

**The Lord is great and greatly to be praised.  
The Lord who created heaven and earth.  
Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare God's wondrous works among all peoples.**

**Bring gifts to the God of gods; enter God's courtyard with exultations.  
Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare God's wondrous works among all peoples.**

**The Lord rules with fairness and equity.  
Even the trees of the earth rejoice at God's judgment.  
Hallelujah! The Lord establishes justice.  
Hallelujah! The Lord has brought justice for all!**

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

**Postlude****“Mary Did You Know”**

by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene



**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 24**

Pick up your free copy of Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say, the book inspiring the January sermon series and used in the book and video study starting in January. See below for details.

### **Online-Only Worship on Christmas Day and New Year's Day**

[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://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 of Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say. In class, we will discuss a chapter and watch a video by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The online Thursday class discusses the chapter for the upcoming Sunday sermon, while the in-person Sunday class discusses the chapter from that day's sermon. If you cannot make the class, you're encouraged to read the book and/or watch the videos on [Amplify Media](#) on your own.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology)

### **Soup Drive: Souper Bowl of Caring—January 15-February 12**

Starting on Sun., Jan. 15, and going through Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 12, Richfield UMC will be collecting canned soup in the Commons area, and collecting online donations for VEAP so that our local food shelf can continue to feed people throughout the coldest months in Minnesota.

## Ongoing and Open

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

January 9th: discussion of potential books for the 2023 schedule  
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.

## **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.

**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, Jane Parry, Agnes Danzl, Connie Gillespie, Derek, nephew of Susan and SK Johnson, Bill Mosher, brother of Lori Claussen, Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha 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.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 10:00 am.

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.

### Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

Worship in-person, online, and by phone

4:00 pm Family-Friendly Worship

9:00 pm Traditional Worship Service

### Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day—Building Closed

9:30 am Online-Only Worship Service

### Monday, December 26, 2022

### Tuesday, December 27, 2022

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

10:00 am Funeral service for Pat Steffer

### Wednesday, December 28, 2022

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

### Thursday, December 29, 2022

### Friday, December 30, 2022

### Saturday, December 31, 2022

Building Closed

### Sunday, January 01, 2023

New Year's Day—Building Closed

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: Victor Zupanc, Julia Bartsch (violin)

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher, The Melcher Family

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, 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 December 25 is David Couillard.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

- Advent Wreath Liturgy by Rev. Nate Melcher.
- "Christmas Prayer" and "Benediction" by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling. Bennett, Tanya Linn, ed. *The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2020*. © 2019 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 147-148.
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Richfield United Methodist Church

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational.

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at [richfieldumc.org/land](http://richfieldumc.org/land).