



December 24, 2022 at 9:00 pm
Christmas Eve



bold = in unison

✱ Please rise in body or spirit.

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Pastorale" [from: 'Messiah'] by G. F. Handel

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Lighting the Christ Candle Rev. Bill and Ann Johnson

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. 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)
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (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

"He Is Born"

UMH No. 228

Refrain:

He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!

He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

1. Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! (Refrain)
2. O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure gracious gift to humankind! (Refrain)
3. Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. (Refrain)

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Solo

“O Holy Night”
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

A. Adam

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:8-14

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Sharing the Story

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High" UM Hymnal # 238
vs. 1-4 [congregation ring bells on refrain]

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)**
3. **Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)**
4. **See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)**

Sermon

"GLHV, GG, and MC"

Rev. Nate Melcher

Carol

"Before the Marvel of this Night"
Chancel Choir

C. Schalk

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Offertory

"Fum, Fum, Fum"
Chancel Choir

Trad. Spanish Dance Carol
arr. Parker/Shaw

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.*

Hymn "Silent Night" UM Hymnal # 239
vs. 1, 3, 4

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 "Silent Night" arr. C. Ore



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



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 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 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

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.

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.

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.

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: Nancy Dierauer, Tanner VanderKrabben, Chancel Choir

Instrumentalists: Ginny Bennett (viola), Rachel Jensen (violin),

Carolyn Liptak (violin), Pat Norton (cello)

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Bill and Ann Johnson, 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 December 25 is David Couillard.

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational.

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