



January 8, 2023 at 9:30 am
Celebration of Epiphany



Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude "We Three Kings of Orient" arr. P. Manz
Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship* (Isaiah 60) Rev. Hope Hutchison

Arise and shine! Your light has come.
The glory of the Lord shines like the sun.
Behold, the nations have come to witness God's light.
Kings have come to behold Christ's brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look around.
The glory of the Lord is all around.
Arise and shine! Your light has come.

Gathering Hymn* "We Three Kings" vs. 1 and 5 UM Hymnal 254

1. **We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain: **O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

5. **Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]**

Centering Prayer

God of starlight, disperse the shadow of our lives, that we may behold the light of your love shining in every corner of the world. Guide our footsteps in the paths of righteousness, that justice may flourish and peace may abound. Help us follow the wise of old, that through our own journeys of faith, we may behold the mystery known in the coming of the infant Jesus. 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 where your life's journey met God's heart.

Celebration Music

"The Kings"
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

P. Cornelius

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:1-11, 50:20-21

Rev. Lynn Borgeson

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’

Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Half Truth: “Everything happens for a reason.”
 “Half Truths” Worship Series 1 of 5 Rev. Nate Melcher

Wesley Covenant Prayer by John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,
hear our 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.

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.*

Offertory

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”
Nancy Dierauer, organ

arr. P. Manz

THANKSGIVING

Doxology*

UMH No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Gratitude*

God of glory and strength, we share this offering with you as a response to your powerful acts in our own lives. We share our financial resources with you because of the splendorous ways that you have blessed us. Your majestic spirit fills our lives like the mighty waters fill the oceans. All glory is given to you, Lord God. In your powerful name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Joy to the World”
vs. 1 and 4

UM Hymnal 246

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

M. Drichner



Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.

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, Sunday, January 8, 2023

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 that's just starting.

New Adult Class (coincides with sermon series)

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

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 today, 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: Today, January 8 (2nd Sunday), February 5, March 5

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

richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

Next Sunday, January 15

Special musical guest: On January 15, the Living Waters Band will be joined by acclaimed singer/actor Joe Nathan Thomas. Joe Nathan sang at RUMC last year and blessed us with his rich baritone voice. This will be a special Sunday celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Starting next Sunday, Richfield UMC is collecting canned soup in the Commons area, and collecting online donations for VEAP, our local food shelf. Let's help feed people throughout the coldest months in Minnesota.

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

Program: Lake Superior: The Grander Rounds

This Thursday, January 12th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Online-only program: [Zoom Link](#): Online Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835

OR Call-In: 312-626-6799, then enter Meeting ID & Passcode

What most Minnesotans know about Lake Superior is the "Northshore," but there is much more to the Big Lake. Our presenters are Rev. Wayne and Fern Albertson and Rev. Kent Johnson. **Questions:** Call/email the Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland, at 612-

861-6086 or kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

Church Conference on February 5

There will be a church conference after worship to receive reports and approve the 2023 operations budget. Sunday, Feb. 5 at 10:35 am in the Sanctuary and by [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 886-0975-2661, Passcode: 5835 or call in: 312-626-6799 (standard rates)

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 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.

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, January 08, 2023

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:40 am Half Truths Study
10:45 am Confirmation
7:00 pm Pub Theology

Monday, January 09, 2023

1:30 pm Women Who Read

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:30 pm Church and Society Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Youth Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12, 2023

1:00 pm Time for LIFE (online only)
7:30 pm Half Truths Study

Friday, January 13, 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023

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

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Souper Bowl Soup Collection Begins
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:40 am Half Truths Study

Monday, January 16, 2023

MLK Jr. Day—Building Closed

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Tanner VanderKrabben

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

Tech: 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 January 8 is Jerry Schilling.

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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.