



February 12, 2023 at 9:30 am
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude	"That's What Friends Are For"	by Burt Bacharach
Welcome		Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship*		Rev. Hope Hutchison

Enter this dwelling, all who seek the love of God.

Be welcome and be glad, for God is here.

Witness the arrival of Jesus, the One who reconciles all things.

Be assured and be free, for Christ is here.

Go out to the world, yearning for the Holy Spirit.

Be comforted and be ready, for the Holy Spirit is here.

Gathering Hymn*

“Were You There”
vs. 1, 2, 5

UM Hymnal 288

Centering Prayer

Gracious and loving God, your love raises up the lost and elevates the oppressed. You deliver from death, you make all things alive in Jesus. We confess our need to lean on your enduring Spirit. We confess we sometimes resist, certain we can do all things on our own. Remind us in your kind ways that you are at the center. May we live this way all of our days. 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 and Blessing of the Souper Bowl Drive

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

“His Eye Is On the Sparrow”
Thomasina Petrus, soloist

by Martin/Gabriel

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings

Romans 8:1-11, (*The Message*)
John 3:16-17 (*The Message*)

Romans 8:1-11

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that.

The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

John 3:16-18

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon “The Gift” Rev. Cynthia Williams
“For God So Loved the World” Worship Series 1 of 2

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

“You Raise Me Up” by R. Lovland and B. Graham
Thomasina Petrus, soloist

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*

Evidence of your love is all around us — but we are often blind to it. Most of us spend more time ignoring you than doubting you. By placing money in the offering this day, we declare our trust in your goodness. Our giving is a way we announce to ourselves and to the world that ultimate importance is not in our scheming, but in your purposes. Receive these gifts as our way of applauding your power and love. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

FWS Hymnal 2129

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“You’ve Got a Friend”

by Carole King



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.

RICHFIELD UMC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, February 12, 2023

We welcome as our preacher this morning, Rev. Cynthia Williams, Twin Cities District Superintendent. We also welcome musical guest, Thomasina Petrus. Petrus has sung and acted on many local stages including Penumbra, Park Square, Mixed Blood, Illusion, Guthrie, and others.

Worship Series: “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD” Begins (Feb. 12-Feb. 19)

The truth of John 3:16 isn't just a cliché catchphrase, it's a reminder that God is for all people. This series will feature guest preachers and guest musicians to help us expand our scope of new experiences for how others experience the holy.

Youth Ministry Fundraiser—Youth will be selling snacks for the Super Bowl today, Sunday, February 12. Get stocked up for the big game.

Soup Drive: Souper Bowl of Caring Concludes—Today, Feb. 12, is the final day of the collection of canned soup in the Commons area, and collecting online donations for VEAP, our local food shelf. Thank you for your donations.

Children's Sunday School today, Children go to Sunday School from worship after the Time for Children

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00pm (in-person only)

Begin the season of Lent with this interactive worship service steeped in music, prayer, and spiritual practices. The Confirmation Class will help lead this service, including the tradition of the imposition of ashes. If you cannot be present in-person and wish to celebrate Ash Wednesday, you are encouraged to participate in one of the Ash Wednesday worship services in the [Richfield UMC archives](#), on the church website (richfieldumc.org) dated [February 17, 2021](#) or [March 2, 2022](#).

Worship Series: “UNWAVERING LOVE” (February 26-March 26)

We are blessed to be the children of a God of unwavering love. When we love others, God is there. When we mess up, God is there. When we face the odds, God is there. This Lent, we take a deep dive on the passion story that leads to Easter in a series inspired by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine's book and video series, *Entering the Passion*. Go deeper and watch the supplemental [video series on Amplify](#). Get your free Amplify Media account today at richfieldumc.org/amplify for access to thousands of videos and audiobooks for daily devotional, Bible study, worship, and inspiration.

Next Sunday, February 19, 2023

We welcome as our preacher next Sunday, Jerad Morey, who is one of the appointed clergy at Northfield UMC in Northfield, MN. Some of you may remember Jerad as he was a member of Richfield UMC before joining the clergy.

Meet and worship with Bishop Lanette at one of 6 gatherings across Minnesota

Meet Bishop Lanette Plambeck, who began her assignment as resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area on Jan. 1. One gathering is in Plymouth: Messiah UMC (17805 County Road 6, Plymouth): Sunday, Feb. 26, 2-4 p.m. (live streamed) Visit this site to register and see all the planned gatherings: <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/BishopsGatherings>

Ongoing and Open

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

March 6th: Neither Wolf Nor Dog by Kent Nerburn

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, Rhonda Olson, Bonnie Stemme, Kermit Johnson, father of SK Johnson, Anna Restemayer, and Marilyn Dodge.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve: Rhonda Olson and family in the death of Rhonda's father, Sebron Tyler.

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, February 12, 2023

Souper Bowl Soup Collection Concludes

Jersey Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Super Bowl Snack Sale (Youth
Mission Trip Fundraiser)

10:45 am Confirmation

Monday, February 13, 2023

10:00 am CFC Music

5:00 pm Parish Companion Meeting

7:00 pm Families with Children Council

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

9:00 am CFC Children's Church

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

10:00 pm Memorials Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

9:00 am CFC Soccer

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Youth Group

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Friday, February 17, 2023

Saturday, February 18, 2023

8:30 am Men's Group

10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, February 19, 2023

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

9:45 am Sunday School

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Thomasina Petrus, Rev. Nate Melcher, Greg Locke, Lyra Olson,
Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher, Rev. Cynthia Williams

Tech: 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 February 12 is Mary Martha Butler.

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Richfield United Methodist Church

5835 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls., MN 55419

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational

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