



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 12, 2023 at 9:30 am
Third Sunday in Lent



UNWAVERING LOVE

a Lent worship series

richfieldumc.org

Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude	“Adagio for Strings”	by S. Barber
Welcome		Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship*		Rev. Hope Hutchison

Through prayer and practice, we pursue what is just,
what is true, what is kind.

With each new day, we hope for Love to lead us.

With discernment, we wade bravely into the struggles of life together.

We yearn for wisdom that satisfies.

Persistently, faithfully, relentlessly, we keep our gaze
set upon righteousness.

Determined in hope, may the Holy be our firm foundation.

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Centering Prayer

Beloved One, in the midst of worrisome and troubled days, we seek refuge in your presence. In your care, we find a place to tend our fears and air our grief, to hold our anger, and to renew our passion for collective good. Draw us near to you, O God, and meet us as we are with your restorative love. 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.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-27; Matthew 22:15-22; Matthew 22:34-40

Matthew 21:23-27

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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

Sermon

“Teachings: Risking Challenge”
“Unwavering Love” Worship Series 3 of 6

Rev. Nate Melcher

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.

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

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

“The New Ghost” by R. Vaughan Williams
Tanner VanderKrabben, 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*

O God, our gifts are so minute in comparison to your bounty. Transform our simple offering into ministries that quench parched lives with the water of eternal life. Nurture our need to share your water and your spirit through the gifts that you have given us so freely. In the name of the One who is the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* “O How He Loves You and Me” FWS Hymnal 2108

O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me!
He gave his life. What more could he give?
O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Jesus to Calv'ry did go; his love for sinners to show. What he did there
brought hope from despair.
O how He loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Benediction*

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

Postlude “Prelude in g minor” by J. S. Bach



**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, Sunday, March 12, 2023

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

Confirmation Class at 10:45 in the Pastor's Office

Let's Talk About Sunday Morning Hospitality

Today, 10:45 - In-Person in the Grace Room

What does RADICAL hospitality mean to you? Join the fun as we experiment and explore what radical hospitality could be at Richfield UMC, on Sunday mornings, for virtual church participants, and at other times. Treats, of course, will be shared. Everyone, especially greeters, are invited to take part! Contact [Gail Johnson](mailto:GailJohnson@richfieldumc.org) (612-250-1736) if you are interested but cannot attend in person.

Lent Classes—now through April 2

Sunday Class: Entering the Passion of Jesus

Sundays in Lent, 9:00 am-9:20 am, Hybrid: Grace Room and Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799 These classes are a breezy 20 minutes - 10-minute videos, 10-minute discussion - and will help you dive deeper into the powerful story of Holy Week. Videos start promptly at 9:00 am.

Wednesday Bible Study: Enter the Passion of Jesus

Wednesdays at 9:00 am-10:00 am, Hybrid: Grace Room and Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799 In Lent, the group will watch and discuss the video series Entering the Passion of Jesus by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine.

Easter Egg Hunt

It's no joke, our annual Easter Egg Hunt is on **Saturday, April 1 from 2-4pm**, and we would love to see you there! We will hunt for eggs outside on our lawn and play fun games. Easter Bunny! Many helpers are needed to make this happen both before the day of the event and on Egg Hunt Day! Check out how you can help at <https://tinyurl.com/rumcegg hunt2023>. If you have questions about any of this, please reach out to Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

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

Location: Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423 (ramp parking) **Next Gathering:** April 2

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

“So Many Questions!” Worship Series Returns - Submit Your Questions

Submit your question(s) about God, faith, church, life, and the Bible for the return of our popular summer worship series, “So Many Questions!”

Please email your question(s) to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org by Easter, April 9.

Save the Date: Monday, April 10, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

Q&A Live Online with Bishop Tom Berlin

Bishop Tom Berlin joins us for a Q&A session about his book, *Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess*. This book inspires our Eastertide worship series.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Worship

April 2—Palm Sunday, 9:30 am

We'll wave palm branches and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

April 6—Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm

We remember when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

April 7—Good Friday, 7:00 pm

Come to the foot of the cross and hear the story laid out in scripture and music.

April 9—Easter Sunday, 9:30 am

He is risen, indeed! Come celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in our lives!

Ongoing and Open

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

April 3rd: The Awakening: The Dragon Heart Legacy, Book 1 by Nora Roberts

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 options to help your family have a good experience when worshipping.

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.

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 and 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, Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha Butler, Betsy Petersen, daughter of Mary Kay Petersen, Rhonda Olson, Bonnie Stemme, Kermit Johnson, father of SK Johnson, Marilyn Dodge, Marta Borgeson, niece of Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Lee Weiser and Richard, Michelle Wegscheid's aunt, Judy, and Sarah Sumner, daughter of Mary Martha and David Butler.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve.

We pray for our neighbors and 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, March 12, 2023

9:00 am Class: Entering the Passion of Jesus
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation
10:45 am Let's Talk about Hospitality:
Radical Hospitality Gathering

7:30 pm Youth Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 16, 2023

Friday, March 17, 2023

Saturday, March 18, 2023

8:30 am Men's Group
10:00 am Groth Music Scholarship
Auditions
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Monday, March 13, 2023

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

9:00 am CFC Children's Church
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
10:00 am Memorials Team Meeting
7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

9:00 am Class: Entering the Passion of Jesus
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

9:45 am Sunday School

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study:
Entering the Passion of Jesus
6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Ann Johnson, Tanner VanderKrabben

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Dale Olson, Steve Warner

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 March 12 is David Couillard.

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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.