



March 26, 2023 at 9:30 am
Fifth Sunday in Lent

UNWAVERING LOVE

a Lent worship series
richfieldumc.org

Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude	"Prepare! Prepare!"	by Steven Pishner
Welcome		Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship*		Rev. Hope Hutchison

Come, all who are weary. Here, we wait for the Lord.
Come, all who have turned away from God.
Here, we find forgiveness and healing.
Come, all who look for hope. Here, we embrace God's steadfast love.
Come, and fill your hearts with praise and thanksgiving.
Let us praise God!

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Centering Prayer

Great God of comfort and healing, we come today with many questions: “How will we survive the challenges of this day? Can we get through our moments of loss and grief? Will we be comforted when our tears flow like mighty streams?” In the midst of our questions, we hear your voice of assurance and comfort. Thank you for your abiding presence, walking with us throughout 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

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

Luke 22:14-27

Rev. Wayne Albertson

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, “The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

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

Sermon

“The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends”

Rev. Nate Melcher

“Unwavering Love” Worship Series 5 of 6

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

"One Lord"

by Lori True

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*

Living God, we thank you for the privilege of giving in your exalted name. We value our ability to give in a way that honors your spirit. As we present our offerings, we remain secure in our knowledge that you will sustain us by your redeeming grace and your infinite love. May your righteous spirit always dwell in our hearts. Amen

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Something Beautiful”
sing through twice

UM Hymnal 394

Something beautiful, something good;
all my confusion he understood;
all I had to offer him was brokenness and strife,
but he made something beautiful of my life.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus/Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You”
by Frankie Valli



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 26, 2023

Children's Sunday School, Children go from worship after the Time for Children
Confirmation Class at 10:45 in the Pastor's Office

Lent Classes—now through April 2

Sunday Class: Entering the Passion of Jesus 9:00 am-9:20 am, Hybrid: Grace Room and Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799 This class has a 10-minute video and 10-minute discussion. 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

Easter Egg Hunt—This Saturday, sign up today!

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 1 from 2-4pm Many helpers are needed to make this happen both before the day of the event and on Egg Hunt Day! **Today, Egg Stuffers:** Pick up eggs & Candy to stuff! See Rev. Hope to get the eggs. **On Saturday, April 1, Set Up & Decorate**, work the **Welcome Table**, run a **Game Station**, hang out with the Easter Bunny at the **Photo Booth**, support the children and families as they do the **Egg Hunt**, help **Clean Up**. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/rumcegg hunt2023>. Contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org with questions.

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 discusses faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

Muffins are back for Palm Sunday - April 2

Come early or stay late on Palm Sunday and get a muffin with your coffee. \$3 each or 2 for \$5 covers costs and goes toward Children and Youth Ministry scholarships. Donate in-person or online: richfieldumc.org/give.

“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.

Q&A Live Online with Bishop Tom Berlin

Monday, April 10, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

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 and you're encouraged to invite a friend and bring your questions about how God works through life's mess to bring restoration to us all.

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

Program: Make the Stars Your Old Friends! with Mike Lynch (astronomy Presentation) Thursday, April 13th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (both in-person and online offerings)

RSVP by Sun. Apr. 9, sign-up in the Commons Area or contact Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland at kbergeland@richfieldumc.org or call 612-861-6086.

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 some options to help your family 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 too.

Sunday School - Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet teachers in the Nook.

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, Marta Borgeson, niece of Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Lee Weiser and Richard, Michelle Wegscheid's aunt, Judy, Sarah Sumner, daughter of Mary Martha and David Butler, Ann Johnson, and Dave Mueller, brother of Tom Mueller.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve: Michelle (CFC Staff) in the death of her mother, Cheryl.

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 26, 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

Monday, March 27, 2023

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

- 9:00 am CFC Children's Church
- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

- 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study:
Entering the Passion of Jesus
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Youth Group
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Friday, March 31, 2023

Saturday, April 1, 2023

- 8:30 am Men's Group
- 10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group
- 2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

- 9:00 am Class: Entering the Passion of Jesus
- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Eric Jensen, Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Shar Salisbury

Liturgists: Rev. Wayne Albertson, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

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 March 26 is Mary Martha Butler.

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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.