



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 30, 2023 at 9:30 am
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

"Thanks Be to God"

by G. F. Handel

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

We long to experience God's kingdom.

May brokenness give way to beauty.

There is divine love all around us.

"Love" is the great synonym for our great God.

We do our part to build God's kingdom

It is now, it is later, it is forever!

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Centering Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we live our lives in gratitude to you. We confess our joy as we experience your holy presence in your creation. We confess our regret that we are not always the responsible stewards of creation that you call us to be. Remind us in gentle and urgent ways of our partnership. Call us to be not just kingdom dwellers, but kingdom builders for you. 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.

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-33

Jerry Schilling

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

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

Sermon

“What does the Bible say about heaven?” Rev. Nate Melcher
“So Many Questions!” Worship Series 6 of 9

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

“Wanting Memories”
Chancel Choir

by Y. M. Barnwell

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*

Holy Spirit, you search the recesses of our minds and the depths of our hearts. You call us to be not only givers but also receivers of your gift of grace. We believe that you will multiply our gifts to draw us nearer to your side. As we offer these financial gifts, we are grateful to be joined to the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“God of Grace and God of Glory”
vs. 1 and 4

UM Hymnal 577

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on the people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

Celebration of Nancy Dierauer and Her Music Ministry

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“Toccata in F [from: Symphony No. V]”

by C. M. Widor



**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, July 30

Nancy Dierauer is retiring as our Music Director and Organist after 20 years with Richfield UMC! Celebrate with treats after the postlude in the Commons Area.

Summer Worship Series: “So Many Questions!”

Hybrid: In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online

This popular series returns and is based on your submitted questions about God, faith, church, life, and the Bible. We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome. This year’s remaining “So Many Questions” topics are:

July 23-How do I put faith into action?

July 30-What does the Bible say about heaven?

August 6-What does the Bible say about hell?

August 20-Why is forgiveness hard?

August 27-Why are Christians hypocrites?

Coffee with the Pastor—9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Tuesdays this summer

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you all summer long to check-in, reconnect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link (if you cannot go online, please call the office) for a meeting at Caribou Coffee (6545 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

Outdoor Summer Worship Series: “I AM: God, Simon, and Garfunkel”

In-Person Only, an alternate online service will be available

In three outdoor in-person worship services, Pastor Nate preaches sermons inspired by a scripture passage and a Simon & Garfunkel song performed by the Living Waters Band led by Victor Zupanc. The remaining Summer Second Sundays outdoors is:

August 13 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am

[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield (free parking at Ice Arena)

Fall Food Drive

August 13 through September 24

RUMC is collecting food and funds for VEAP.

Beginning 8/13, pick up a bag & flyer to donate food or to donate funds, note VEAP on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you.

Sunday, September 3—Online-Only Worship

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

As announced in February, the Administrative Board affirmed holding online-only worship with no in-person option on Sunday, September 3, 2023 (Labor Day weekend)

Ongoing and Open

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

August 14 (note 2nd Monday) - The Paris Showroom by Juliet Blackwell

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.
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 - September -May

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, Agnes Danzl, Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha Butler, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Barb and Dave Rogers, and Sara, niece of Bev Crandall.

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, July 30, 2023

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

Monday, July 31, 2023

Tuesday, August 01, 2023

Wednesday, August 02, 2023

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study

Thursday, August 03, 2023

Friday, August 04, 2023

Saturday, August 05, 2023

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

Sunday, August 06, 2023

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

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. Nate Melcher, Jerry Schilling

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 July 30 is Pat Norton.

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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.