



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 6, 2023 at 9:30 am  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

\* Rise in body or spirit

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Holy Now”

by Peter Mayer

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\*

Come and seek together the salvation of God.

**Welcome the stranger.**

Redistribute resources.

**Tend needs and practice mutual care.**

Abolish all that imprisons.

**This is the way of Christ.**

Let the old ways be left behind.

**Love has come to free us.**

1. Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
blow as you always do; create us anew.  
Give us the breath to sing, Lifted on soaring wing,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
2. Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,  
healing upon your wings for all living things.  
For when we live your peace, captives will find release,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
5. Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,  
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.  
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

## Prayer of Confession

Spirit of God, Holy is your wisdom. You reveal all that has narrowed our imagination, confined our worldviews, and distorted our sense of what's possible. Come and help us create anew. Within and between us, nurture our creativity in the simple and serious work of love. We are not blameless, and we yearn to grow and do better. Hear us in our silent confessions to you...

## Silent Prayer

## Words of Assurance

## 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

“Rainbow Connection” by P. Williams/K. Ascher

## Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Master, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“What does the Bible say about hell?” Rev. Nate Melcher  
“So Many Questions!” Worship Series 7 of 9

## THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

The LORD be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...proclaiming the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

## 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](http://richfieldumc.org/give) supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.*

*Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

## Receiving the Sacrament

*There is no barrier between you and the table.*

*All who seek the grace of Jesus are welcome.*

## Music During Communion

“Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”

UM Hymnal 386

1. Come, O thou Traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see!  
My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee.  
With thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day;  
with thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day.
4. 'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart.  
The morning breaks, the shadows flee, pure, Universal Love thou art.  
To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love.  
To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love.

## Prayer After Receiving the Sacrament

### 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.*

Sending Hymn\*

“Deep in the Shadows of the Past”  
vs. 1, 2, and 4

FWS Hymnal 2246

1. Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,  
some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.  
The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown;  
a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.
2. While others bowed to changeless gods they met a mystery,  
invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";  
and by their tents, around their fires, in story, song and law,  
they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.
4. For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago,  
who sifted, copied and preserved the Bible that we know,  
give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength and call,  
the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.

## SENDING FORTH

### Benediction\*

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

Postlude

“The River’s Gonna Keep on Rollin’”

by Amy Grant



**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, August 6, 2023**

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**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:

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](https://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 Starbucks (54th and Lyndale Avenue South). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

**Next Sunday, August 13**

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

**In-Person Only**, various times and locations (alternate online service 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. A selected reprise of a past worship service streams online and by phone at 9:30 am.

The final Summer Second Sundays outdoor service is

**August 13 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am**

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

**Fall Food Drive: August 13—September 24**

As we start to think about fall, Richfield UMC will be preparing for another Fall Food Drive. As rising costs affect more and more of us, food pantries, like our long-time mission partner VEAP, are struggling to keep their shelves stocked with high quality food. This fall, we’re going to do our best to support VEAP, and get them the supplies they need. Starting at our August bandshell worship on August 13, and running through Confirmation Sunday on September 24, RUMC will be collecting food and funds for VEAP. To donate items, please pick up a bag & flyer from the church building. To donate funds, please note VEAP on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday, September 3—Online-Only Worship**

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[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://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

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

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

Sept. 11 (note 2nd Monday due to holiday) - Where the River Ends by Charles Martin

Contact Fern Albertson, [wfalbertson@gmail.com](mailto:wfalbertson@gmail.com), to get connected.

### **Tuesdays, 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study**

*This group is taking a break for the month of August. Sessions resume September 12.*

Contact Molly Reko, [mollyreko@comcast.net](mailto:mollyreko@comcast.net), to get connected.

### **Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study**

Contact Kent Johnson, [kentjmn@gmail.com](mailto:kentjmn@gmail.com), to get connected.

### **Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group**

Contact Kent Johnson, [kentjmn@gmail.com](mailto: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** - 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: Kermit Johnson, father of SK Johnson, and the SK and Susan Johnson family as they care for Kermit.

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, August 06, 2023**

*Homebound Communion*

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

**Monday, August 07, 2023**

**Tuesday, August 08, 2023**

6:30 pm SPRC Meeting

**Wednesday, August 09, 2023**

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study

**Thursday, August 10, 2023**

**Friday, August 11, 2023**

**Saturday, August 12, 2023**

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

**Sunday, August 13, 2023**

*Fall Food Drive Begins*

9:30 am Worship Service  
Richfield Bandshell  
[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield  
(free parking at Ice Arena)  
9:30 am Online Worship Service—  
Reprise of July 19, 2020

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: 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 August 6 is Greta Thorson.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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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](http://richfieldumc.org/land).