



**September 3, 2023 at 9:30 am
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Holy Ground”

by Geron Davis

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

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.*

The LORD's Prayer

Bea Melcher

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.

Gathering Hymn

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"
vs. 1 and 2

UM Hymnal 278

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

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.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:37-47

Gertie Melcher

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“What Should We Do?”
“Hearts on Fire” Worship Series 3 of 3

Rev. Nate Melcher

THANKSGIVING

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.*

Prayer of Gratitude / 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 FORTH

Sending Song “Pilgrims’ Hymn” by Stephen Paulus
Chancel Choir and Michael Dennis Browne

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God, when we seek for the words to glorify You. You hear our prayer, Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit. Even with the darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name, and through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You, Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, Beyond all mortal dream. Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages. Amen.

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

Benediction

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

Postlude	“Sing a Song”	by Joe Raposo
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**Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.**

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, Sara, niece of Bev Crandall, and David Butler.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve: The family and friends of RUMC member Roger Dammer who died earlier this year.

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.

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 September 3 is Pat Norton.

RICHFIELD UMC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday September 10

Whether you have spent the summer working hard, or at the lake hardly working, on Rally Day the church - all of us of every age - are called to gather with renewed energy to live in faith, justice, and joy. Let's make exciting new memories and celebrate our history together as we reunite.

Blessing of the backpacks, purses, laptop bags, and more! Whatever kind of bag you use on a regular basis, bring it to worship on **Sept. 10** for a blessing.

Fall Worship Series #1: "Confirmation 101" | September 10-24, 2023

Being a United Methodist means putting faith into action. Learn key spiritual practices that help us confirm our faith in God. See how we read scripture through the lenses of reason, tradition, and experience. Consider how three simple rules can build a life of serving God. Discover the value of mustard seed-sized faith. The series concludes with celebrating young people becoming church members on Confirmation Sunday.

Fall Food Drive Continues—Now through September 24

Food pantries, like our long-time mission partner VEAP, need help to keep their shelves stocked. 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.

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

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

Penn Fest, Sunday, September 17, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

You're invited to Penn Fest in Richfield. On this day, all of Penn Avenue in Richfield is closed to cars and open to bikes and pedestrians to come and see all the booths hosted by businesses and organizations, including the Richfield UMC Booth! Everyone is encouraged to come out to Penn Fest this year. See you at the Richfield UMC booth!

Meet and Greet "Pot Luck" Style—4:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sunday, September 24

Dan and Luzia's Home, 4853 Sky View Court, Eagan—Spend an afternoon with church members for good conversation, ping pong, pool, pinochle, cards, and board games. Bring a dish or drink to share, if you can; sloppy joes provided. This is an indoor and outdoor event, weather permitting (bring a lawn chair). RSVP to Dan: 612.578.5544.

Stock Refugee Family Kitchens with Cub Foods Saver Stamps

When you shop at Cub Foods through November 12, ask your cashier for your Saver Stamps. Earn 1 for every \$10 you spend. Bring them to campus on Sundays and we will put them all together and earn free KitchenAid cookware to donate to the Minnesota Council of Churches refugee families. There is no cost to us - earn free cookware for neighbors during your regular grocery shopping. For more information, contact your clergy team or go to cub.com/kitchenaid.

Ongoing and Open

Women Who Read (WWR) - 1st Mondays of the Month, 1:30-3:00 pm, online by Zoom
Please note that in September the meeting will be the second Monday. To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com.

If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read. The next book: September 11 - Where the River Ends by Charles Martin

Women's Bible Study—Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am, Online by Zoom or phone
Resumes Tuesday, September 12. You are invited to contact Molly, mol-lyreko@comcast.net or 612-270-4700, our Zoom coordinator, or Ruth Phelps, 952-929-1595, leader. There is plenty of food for thought in scripture, for as old as the scriptures are, they are alive with truth for these days.

Wednesday Bible Study—Wednesdays, 9:00 am—10:00 am
Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799. Contact Pastor Nate to be on the frequent participant email list for the latest updates. Beginning this week, **Video Series:** God in America (September 6-November 8) This co-production of PBS Frontline and American Experience gives fresh insight into the history of religion in North America. On Nov. 8, we'll watch the video, then go off-site for lunch to discuss it.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group
Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Greg Locke, Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Gertie, Bea, and Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher, TY Moore, Dale Olson,
Steve Warner, Michele Wegscheid

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, Sept. 03, 2023

9:30 am Online-Only Worship Service
*Please do not come to campus
this Sunday; instead,
experience worship online or
by phone. Thank you, and
have a blessed Labor Day.*

Monday, Sept. 04, 2023

*Labor Day
Church Campus Closed*

Tuesday, Sept. 05, 2023

Wednesday, Sept. 06, 2023

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Sept. 07, 2023

Friday, Sept. 08, 2023

Saturday, Sept. 09, 2023

8:00 am Free Community Coffee Bar
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023

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

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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.