



September 17, 2023 at 9:30 am  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**Bold = in unison**

**\* Rise in body or spirit**

## ENTRANCE

Prelude Spanish Dances, Op. 22 no.1, Romanza Andaluza  
by Pablo de Sarasate

Penelope Corbett, violin  
Groth Scholarship recipient  
Sujin Cho, accompanist

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\* (Psalm 100)

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness.**

Come into God's presence with singing.

**Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

### Centering Prayer

We rejoice in you, Lord, always. Thank you, God, for homes that give shelter. Thank you, Jesus, for food that nourishes. Thank you, Spirit, for blessings in our lives. May all who experience your grace and mercy rejoice in your name! May all who come to know your 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.*

Celebration Music

“Help Us Accept Each Other”  
Chancel Choir

by John Ness Beck

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Three Ways to Wonder”  
“Confirmation 101” Worship Series 2 of 3

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](http://richfieldumc.org/give)  
supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.  
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

Souvenir d'un lieu cher, Op. 42, III. Melodie

by Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Penelope Corbett, violin  
Groth Scholarship recipien  
Sujin Cho, accompanist

## 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\*

Patient Lord, you amaze us each day with your ability to display merciful acts and answer our prayers in profound ways. Help us to be stewards of your mercy and grace as these monetary gifts are transformed into active ministries. Multiply the span of these ministries to reach people in new ways. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*      “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”      UM Hymnal 315  
vs. 1, 2, 5

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.
2. Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.
5. "Alleluia!" now we cry to our King immortal,  
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;  
"Alleluia!" with the Son, God the Father praising,  
"Alleluia!" yet again to the Spirit raising.

Benediction\*

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

Postlude      “Weep You No More”      by Roger Quilter  
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist



**Worship is over. Service begins.  
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.**

Welcome Groth Music Scholarship recipient, Penelope Corbett. Penelope is a junior at the University of Minnesota. She is studying violin performance and is a graduate of Stillwater Area High School.

**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 September 17

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**Sunday School** - Begins today following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Meet teachers in the Nook. You'll head to Fellowship Hall or outside (weather-dependent).

### **Penn Fest, Today, 1:00 to 5:00 pm**

You're invited to Penn Fest in Richfield. Today, all of Penn Avenue in Richfield is closed to cars and open to bikes and pedestrians. Come 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!

## Next Sunday, September 24

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### **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 time 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.

### **Fall Food Drive Concludes on September 24**

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

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**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!

## 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. Bring them to campus and we will put them all together and earn free cookware to donate to the Minnesota Council of Churches refugee families.

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

**Protagonist Kitchen and Bar**, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield (ramp parking)

**Next Gathering: October 1** Pub Theology returns for a new season of drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Arrive early to order a tasty beverage and/or dinner, then stay for spirited conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: <https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology>

## New this Fall: Film Theology—First Wednesdays at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

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Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338/Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799 Go watch the latest hit movies in the theater, then come together to discuss them over a bowl of popcorn! Pastor Nate will lean on his Film Studies BA to guide our discussion. **The first date and movie for discussion is October 4—*Oppenheimer* (release date July 21)**

## Ongoing and Open

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

October 9 (note: 2nd Monday) - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

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

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

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.

**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** - Beginning, Sept. 17, 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.

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

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, September 17, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 1:00 pm Penn Fest

### Monday, September 18, 2023

- 7:00 pm Church and Society Meeting

### Tuesday, September 19, 2023

*Coffee with the Pastor*

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, September 20, 2023

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

### Thursday, September 21, 2023

### Friday, September 22, 2023

### Saturday, September 23, 2023

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

### Sunday, September 24, 2023

*Confirmation Sunday*

*Fall Food Drive Concludes*

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 4:00 pm Meet and Greet Pot Luck

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Penelope Corbett, Sujin Cho, Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: 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 September 17 is Gretta Thorson.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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### Richfield United Methodist Church

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Worship Livestream and Subscribe: [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc)

**Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational**

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at [richfieldumc.org/land](http://richfieldumc.org/land).