



October 22, 2023 at 9:30 am
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Autumn Leaves”

by Johnny Mercer

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

God meets us in our fear.

They meet us in our messiness.

God does not ask us to be a self-improvement project;

They are not tapping Their impatient toes,

waiting for us to get it all together (whatever that means).

God is abundantly patient.

God is abundantly understanding.

They know the way the world has broken our hearts.

It breaks Theirs, too.

Come, let us meet with the Brokenhearted God.

For wide are the arms of Love.

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Centering Prayer

Love has shown us what is good; and what does the Holy ask of us? But to do justice, and to love compassion, and to walk open-heartedly with the Ways of Life. Prophets, ancient and contemporary, invite us to trade dominance for the Way of Life. We gather as offerings to God this day, that we may do justice and love compassion. 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

“Thank You God”

by Garrison Doles

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Micah 6:6-8

Gail Johnson

“With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Sermon

“The Great Requirement”
“A Great Way” Worship Series 4 of 5

Rev. Nate Melcher

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

“Shower the People”

by James Taylor

THANKSGIVING

Doxology*

UM Hymnal 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*

God of Wisdom, we rejoice that you have provided us with numerous examples of generous giving. We obediently share this offering in full knowledge that all of our resources and assets are ultimately a gift from you. Help us to use them wisely and to share them generously. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life, so we may live abundantly. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“God of Grace and God of Glory”
vs. 1—3

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.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“When the Saints Go Marching In”

**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 October 22

Service Project—Do a hands-on service project to help our neighbors in need. After worship today, help pack welcome kits for our new neighbors who are transitioning out of homelessness. The old Metro Inn site is becoming affordable housing and we want to welcome these new neighbors.

Help Welcome Refugees Donation Drive Oct. 22-Nov. 26

Richfield UMC is collecting items for the Bathroom Pack portion of refugee welcome kits. **The items we are collecting are:** - shower curtain & plastic liner - shower hooks - toilet paper - laundry detergent - laundry basket - bath towel - hand towel - washcloths. Drop off your items on Sunday morning, or during our regular office hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 8am-4pm). Monetary donations are also welcome. To donate money, please note “Refugee Services” on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Online Book Study: *Do I Stay Christian* by Brian McLaren

Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, October 26 - November 16. All are welcome.

Zoom link provided after registration. Led by Rexi Warner and Gail Johnson.

Registration Link: <https://mnumc-reg.brapp.com/DoIStayChristian>

Or visit www.minnesotaumc.org and look under the events calendar.

Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 28, 2:00-4:00pm

Trunk or Treat is coming up soon! Are you interested and able to help out on Sat., Oct. 28? The event runs from 2-4 pm, help welcome people, run carnival games, decorate your car trunk! Contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org to help!

Film Theology—First Wednesdays at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

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 guides our discussion. **The next date & movie is November 1—*Killers of the Flower Moon*** (release date Oct. 20)

Next Sunday, October 29—Commitment Sunday

Pie & Cider Social—We’ll celebrate Commitment Sunday in worship and continue the fun with pie and cider after the service. Bring a pie to share and join others for a slice of fall-inspired fellowship!

UWF Craft and Vendor Fair—Saturday November 4, 10am to 2pm

Come get your holiday shopping done early and support local crafters and businesses. If you are interested in having a table please contact: Rhonda Olson:

rhonda.s.olson@gmail.com or Toni Locke: 612-840-9797 or toni@ggrreegg.com

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

Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Ave. S., (ramp parking)

Next Gatherings: November 5, December 3 Be part of this informal atmosphere to talk about faith questions big and small. Conversation led by Pastor Nate.

Advent Devotional Submissions Due November 12

Advent begins December 3, and the devotional theme is “Light of the World.” How has God brightened the shadow around you? What has been an epiphany that shed new light and gave fresh perspective? Who is the light of God in your life? The deadline for your original submission of 250 words or less is November 12. Send your submissions to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.

There will be a charge conference at the Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 pm to approve clergy compensation for 2024. All worshipers and members may attend. Ad Board members may vote.

Ongoing and Open

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

November 6: The Maid by Nita Brose

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 - 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, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Sara, niece of Bev Crandall, Becca Whitaker, Clarice Lien, and Serra Vickery, daughter of Bill and Ann Johnson.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve:

Dave Berner and family in the death of Dave's father, Will.

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, October 22, 2023

Refugee Services Drive Begins

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

9:45 am Sunday School

10:45 am Welcome Kit Assembly

Monday, October 23, 2023

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Coffee with the Pastor

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm Workshop: Writing & leading
Prayers for Worship

Wednesday, October 25, 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, October 26, 2023

7:00 pm Online Study: Do I Stay Christian

Friday, October 27, 2023

Saturday, October 28, 2023

8:30 am Men's Group

10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

2:00 pm Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Commitment Sunday

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

9:45 am Sunday School

10:35 am Pie and Cider Social

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: David Butler, Pat Eder, Victor Zupanc, Rev. Nate Melcher

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Gail Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Dale Olson, 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 October 22 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.