



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 3, 2023 at 9:30 am
First Sunday of Advent



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Victor Zupanc, soloist

by Rossetti/Holst

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Lighting the Advent Wreath I The Candle of Hope

Susan & Wayne Johnson

As the season of Advent bids us to turn to Hope,
The LORD God of hosts draws near.

We hear the messengers from upon high,
and we listen with stirred hearts straining to be saved.
The plains and the mountains echo with sweet song,
and our tears dry at the touch of God’s hand.
The LORD God draws near.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope.
We call upon the name of God, and God’s holy face shines.
May the God of Hope shine throughout the world. Amen.

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.
4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Loving Shepherd, gather us in your arms of love. Cover us with your mercy and grace, that injustices might be healed and transformed into righteousness, justice, and peace for your world. Guide us to your path, that we may be people who both await and who create your path of peace, justice, and love. Hear us now 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 "And a Little Child Shall Lead Them"
Chancel Choir

by Roy Hopp

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

THANKSGIVING

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.

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

...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 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 “*Expectans*” by Camille Saint-Saëns
From *Oratorio de Noël*
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

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 FORTH

Sending Hymn* “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” by Stephen Schwartz
Prepare ye the way of the Lord. (repeat)

Benediction*

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

Postlude “Simple Season” by Barbara McAfee
Victor Zupanc, soloist

**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, December 3—Advent Begins

Advent Worship Series Begins: “Light of the World” December 3-24, 2023

There is something magical about the season of Advent. As we count down the days leading to Christmas, we will seek out the presence of Jesus, the light of the world. Enjoy Advent traditions such as lighting the Advent wreath, the Christmas Pageant next Sunday, Dec. 10, and Lessons and Carols on Dec. 17. Christmas Eve worship is at 9:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Advent Devotionals are available in the Commons Area or view online at richfieldumc.org/devo/

Hands-On Welcome Kit Packing

After worship on Sun., Dec. 3, help pack bathroom welcome kits for refugees new to Minnesota.

Richfield Symphonic Band Concert - This afternoon, Dec. 3, 4:00 pm

Mark the beginning of the Advent season with an inspired holiday concert from the Richfield Community Band, with treats to follow. The concert is open to the public and features a variety of new and traditional holiday favorites for the whole family. A freewill offering is split between the band and church.

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: This evening, December 3, and January 7 Be part of this informal atmosphere to talk about faith questions big and small. Conversation led by Pastor Nate.

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 this Wednesday, December 6—*Napoleon* (release date Nov. 22)**

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship for Everyone

Holiday Lunch and Program, *Count Your Blessings*, with the GraceNotes Trio

This Wednesday, December 6th, from 12 Noon - 2:00 pm, In-person Only

We are excited to welcome the GraceNotes Trio back to RUMC. We will hear some sacred Christmas classics along with other heartwarming carols written in new and jazzy arrangements. **Time:** Lunch at 12 Noon; Program begins at 1:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00, for both the lunch and program. \$5.00, for the program only. Please pay the day of the event. **Please RSVP by today, Sunday, December 3rd.**

Service of Hope and Healing: Next Sunday December 10 at 4:00 pm

When we are in the midst of grief, whether it be the loss of a person, the loss of a job, or some other life-change, celebration is often very tender and difficult. All are invited to a Service of Hope, Memory, and Healing Sun., Dec. 10, 4:00 pm in the commons area. Live music, poetry, prayers, and ritual. Prepare your hearts for the light of Christ with candlelight and prayer. God's blessings to you.

UWF Bake Sale - Next Sunday December 10 after the worship service

Get your holiday baking done the easy way. Choose from an assortment of cookies, breads, bars and other delicious treats. Cookies 50 cents each and other items priced as marked. If you are interested in donating cookies or other items, please contact Toni Locke at 612-840-9797 or email toni@ggrrееgg.com

Ongoing and Open

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

December 4: Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting by Clare Pooley.
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, Agnes Danzl, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Sara, niece of Bev Crandall, Serra Vickery, daughter of Bill and Ann Johnson, Ann Johnson, Pat Norton, and Jessica, daughter of Caroline Riley.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve: Lee Weiser in the death of his father, Joseph Weiser.

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 December 3 is Pat Norton.

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, December 03, 2023

Advent Begins

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Refugee Services Kit Packing Party
- 4:00 pm Richfield Symphonic Band Holiday Concert
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology

Monday, December 04, 2023

- 1:30 pm Women Who Read
- 5:30 pm Parish Companion Meeting

Tuesday, December 05, 2023

Coffee with the Pastor

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 06, 2023

- 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Time for LIFE
- 6:00 pm Film Theology
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 07, 2023

Friday, December 08, 2023

Saturday, December 09, 2023

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

Sunday, December 10, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 10:30 am UWF Bake Sale and Walker Jewelry Sale
- 10:40 am Reconciling Ministries Team
- 4:00 pm Service of Hope and Healing

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Gail Johnson, Susan and Wayne Johnson,
Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Pat Eder, Steve Warner, Michele Wegscheid

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- "Lighting the Advent Wreath" by Rev. Nate Melcher
- "Prayer of Confession" by Mary Scifres. Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*. © 2022 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 235-236
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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.