



Light of the World

an advent worship series

richfieldumc.org

*** Rise in body or spirit**

Prelude “Oh, Come, Emmanuel” from *A Nativity Suite* by W. Held
Sonja Gustafson, Guest Organist

Lighting the Advent Wreath III The Candle of Joy Luzia Tavares and Dan Bur

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy. We laugh and rejoice, and God's holy greatness restores. **May the God of Joy restore throughout the world. Amen.**

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.

Gathering Hymn "Once In Royal David's City" UM Hymnal 250
vs. 1 Soloist, vs. 2 Chancel Choir, vs. 3-4 All

3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

First Lesson Jeremiah 23:5-6 Fern Albertson

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Carol "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" by M. Praetorius

Second Lesson Isaiah 11:1-5 Rev. Bill Johnson

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Marj Wittenborg

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

“Angelus Ad Virginem”

by David Willcox

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:6-9

Sarah Musgrave

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” vs. 1-2, 4 UM Hymnal 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-38 Sara Watne

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol “A Boy Was Born” by Benjamin Britten

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-12 Wayne Johnson

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he

was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Hymn

Away in a Manger

UM Hymnal 217

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:13-20

Scott Ellich

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol

"Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" by Carolyn Jennings

THANKSGIVING

Sermon

“Light of the World”
“Light of the World” Worship Series 3 of 3

Rev. Nate Melcher
Rev. Wayne Albertson
Ann Johnson
Orlean Kovach
Merry Rendahl

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

“Gesu Bambino”
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

by Pietro Yon

Prayer of Gratitude / 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.**

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Kate Currie

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem,

saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol

“Sleep, Holy Babe”

by Virginia Croft

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-4

Justin White

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

UM Hymnal 251

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. (Refrain)**
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)**
- 3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“Joy to the World” from *A Nativity Suite*

by W. Held

**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, December 17

Lessons and Carols presented by the Chancel Choir

After worship be sure to get a treat, there will be Muffins! \$3 or 2 for \$5. Proceeds benefit children & youth ministries.

Next Sunday

Christmas Eve Worship | Sunday, Dec. 24

In-Person, Online at youtube.com/richfieldumc, and by Phone (888)650-5835

9:30 am Family Worship with musician Victor Zupanc and Highland pipe.

4:00 pm Traditional Worship features organ, Chancel Choir, and a string quartet.

Be sure to pick-up your copy of Prof. Amy-Jill Levine's book, The Gospel of Mark on Christmas Eve in preparation of the all-church reading challenge coming in January. The details of the challenge are available in the e-heartline and in the January/February Heartline newsletter.

You are invited to share God's blessings and give generously to the **Christmas Eve special offering** for causes vetted by your Church & Society Team and ministry that renews the mission of the church.

The Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services provides resources for housing, cultural adaptation, education, employment, personalized case management, and more.

The Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund is a coalition of 3 long-standing Detroit urban farming organizations with a mission to rebuild intergenerational land ownership for Black Farmers.

Love Your Neighbor with lively possibilities as the church. In 2024, we are poised to take the next step in our MCCI signature ministries as we strive to share God's love with our neighbors.

Sunday, December 31, Worship at 9:30 am

Online and by Phone (888) 650-5835

(no in-person worship that day)

Worship on New Year's Eve from the comfort of your home with hand-selected music and liturgy for the season.

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 January 3 —*Migration* (release date Dec. 22)**

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

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

Next Gathering: January 14 (Note: 2nd Sunday this month)

Be part of this informal atmosphere to talk about faith questions big and small. Conversation led by Pastor Nate.

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

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to check-in, connect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link or call the office. Meet at Starbucks (54th and Lyndale). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

Reminders:

The church campus is closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1. The campus reopens January 2, 2024.
Online-Only Worship on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023.
youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

Ongoing and Open

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

At the January 8, 2024, meeting (note second Monday) the women of the group recommend books to each other that they would like to read, and in that process, the group develops their book choices for the following year.

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, Ann Johnson, Pat Norton, Kate Currie, Mitzi Taylor, David Doty, and Sharon Gardner.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Herb Doty, Jane Parry.

We pray for those who grieve: Bev Crandall's sister, Janet Nelson, on the passing of her husband, Robert Nelson.

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, December 17, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Youth Christmas Party

Monday, December 18, 2023

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

- 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm RUMC Foundation meeting
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21, 2023

- 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, December 22, 2023

Saturday, December 23, 2023

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

Sunday, December 24, 2023

- 9:30 am Christmas Eve Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

The church campus is closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1.
The campus reopens on January 2, 2024.

Reminder: Online-Only Worship on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023.

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

Please do not come to campus, thank you.

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Sonja Gustafson, Tanner VanderKrabben, The Chancel Choir

Instrumentalists: Carolyn Liptak, Galina Dzordevic, Ginny Bement, Abigail Proehl

Liturgists: Fern Albertson, Rev. Wayne Albertson, Dan Bur, Kate Currie, Scott Ellich, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Ann Johnson, Rev. Bill Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Orlean Kovach, Rev. Nate Melcher, Sarah Musgrave, Merry Rendahl, Luzia Tavares, Sara Watne, Justin White, Marj Wittenborg

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, 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 December 17 is Merry Rendahl.

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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.

