



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 7, 2024 at 9:30 am
Baptism of Our Lord



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude "We Three Kings of Orient Are" by Hopkins/arr. Bober
Sonja Gustafson, Guest Organist

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* Rev. Hope Hutchison

Through baptism, we trace a lineage unlike any other.

A holy line of kinship that redefines power and belonging.

It beckons us to come by choice. To declare our intent.
To make known our loyalty.

Our loyalty to love. To repair. To justice. To Christ.

The waters of baptism free us from alliances that destroy.

May they wash over us and renew the bonds of God.

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Creator of Life, over and over again you remind us: we belong first - not to institutions, traditions, or hierarchies of power - but to you, the earth, and one another. While forces of evil normalize betrayal and block paths of justice, we know we are not meant for such destruction. By your grace, may we shed that which keeps us from living out the claims of our baptism. That we may be a community whose loyalty to love is clear and unwavering, make it so among us. 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

“When God Is a Child”
Chancel Choir

by John Carter

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-15

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.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by the adversary, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Good News Begins”
“Intro to Jesus” Worship Series 1 of 6

Rev. Nate Melcher

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

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

“Epiphany Vigil at Gethsemani Abbey” by Jeffrey Hoover
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*

“Joy to the World”

UM Hymnal 246

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“Joy to the World”

arr. Cherwien

**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

Churchwide Gospel of Mark Reading Challenge

Be part of a churchwide challenge to read the entire Gospel of Mark and Amy-Jill Levine's book, *The Gospel of Mark*. Reading for January 14: Mark 5-7 and pages 27-52: Restoring Purity and Wholeness.

Four Video Discussion Class Opportunities

Gather to discuss the book and video series by Prof. Levine, *The Gospel of Mark*

1. **Sundays in Epiphany, 9:00 am-9:20 am Hybrid:** Grace Room and [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799
2. **Mondays in January, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm Online-Only:** [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799
3. **Tuesday Women's Bible Study, 9:30 am-11:00 am Online-Only:** Contact Zoom coordinator Molly (mollyreko@comcast.net or 612-270-4700) or class leader, Rev. Ruth Phelps (952-929-1595).
4. **Wednesday Bible Study, 9:00 am-10:00 am Hybrid:** Grace Room and [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

Next Sunday, January 14

Pizza with the Pastor / New Member Class

January 14, 10:45 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086

Learn about becoming a church member and RSVP for "Pizza with the Pastor." We'll get to know each other over lunch and talk about church ministries and membership vows. New members are scheduled to join on January 28. Can't make that date, yet you're interested? RSVP, anyway!

Sunday School resumes-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.

SOUPer Bowl of Caring Drive: January 14-February 11

Bring your donations of canned soup to the Commons area or donate online. Let's help VEAP, our local food shelf, feed people throughout the coldest months in Minnesota.

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!

Q&A Live Online with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine—Monday, January 22, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

[Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

Prof. Amy-Jill Levine joins us for a Q&A session about her book, *The Gospel of Mark*. We are excited to have one of the most prominent scholars of Jesus with us and you're encouraged to bring a question, bring a friend, and bring excitement to this unique opportunity to engage an amazing author!

Church Conference and Pot Luck on January 28—There will be a church conference after worship to receive reports and approve the 2024 operations budget. **Pot luck at 10:35 am** in the fellowship hall followed by the **meeting at 10:50 am**. You may join the meeting by [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 886-0975-2661, Passcode: 5835 or call in: 312-626-6799 (standard rates) Please bring a dish to share for the pot luck.

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 and 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, Kate Currie, Mitzi Taylor, Sharon Gardner, Nancy Zwick, sister of Susan (SK) Johnson, Robert McCoy, stepson of Curt Stull, Cynthia Knutson, and Helen, daughter of Herb Doty.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Jane Parry.

We pray for those who grieve:

The family and friends of Herb Doty who died on Dec. 23, especially David and Dortha Doty. Arrangements are being set for a service on Sat., Jan. 27, 2024.

Sharon Keen in the death of her sister-in-law, Jan Falk, on January 1.

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, January 07, 2024

9:00 am Gospel of Mark Class
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

Monday, January 08, 2024

1:30 pm Women Who Read
7:00 pm Church and Society Meeting
7:30 pm Gospel of Mark Class

Tuesday, January 09, 2024

Coffee with the Pastor

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Friday, January 12, 2024

Saturday, January 13, 2024

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

Sunday, January 14, 2024

SOUPer Bowl Soup Drive Begins

9:00 am Gospel of Mark Class
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:45 am New Member Class
7:00 pm Pub Theology

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Sonja Gustafson, Tanner VanderKrabben, Chancel Choir

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 January 7 is Jerry Schilling.

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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.