



**RICHFIELD**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**January 14, 2024 at 9:30 am**  
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**



**Bold = in unison**

**\* Rise in body or spirit**

## **ENTRANCE**

Prelude

**“He Never Failed Me Yet”**  
Antonia Collins, soloist

by CeCe Winans

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

The Spirit of Christ is full of wisdom:  
**She blesses our learning and our unlearning,**  
**She is not overwhelmed by the work to be done.**  
The Spirit of Christ overflows with compassion:  
**She moves toward us when we are unwell.**  
**She makes a way for us to rest.**  
Come, Spirit of Christ, live among us,  
**Wisdom and Compassion dwell in our hearts.**

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.
  
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

### Centering Prayer

Holy One, accompany us no matter our state of mind; meet us, no matter the quality of our mood. Shore up our courage when we feel like we might surrender to life-draining patterns. Bolster our creativity when we feel stuck in old ways. In your steadfast name we pray. 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

“You Are So Beautiful”  
Victor Zupanc, soloist

by Billy Preston

## Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

### Scripture Reading

Mark 6:7-13, 30

Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

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

Sermon

“Restoring Purity and Wholeness”  
“Intro to Jesus” Worship Series 2 of 6

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

### Offertory

“Rise Up”  
Antonisia Collins, soloist

by Andra Day

## 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\*

Merciful God, you provide us with so many opportunities to follow Jesus' teaching and to live as modern-day disciples. We sometimes respond to your call with enumerable excuses or unfounded worries. We confuse our spiritual longing with the need for possessions. Yet, these things only provide a false sense of security. As we offer these financial resources, transform us so that we are stirred to hear your call on our lives. We pray in the name of the Redeeming One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

# SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”  
vs. 1-3

UM Hymnal 402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Benediction\*

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

Postlude

“A Change Is Gonna Come”  
Antonia Collins, soloist

by Sam Cooke

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

Welcome guest vocalist Antonia Collins. Ms. Collins is a performance apprentice for the 2023-24 season at Children’s Theatre Company. She is a singer/dancer/actor who attended Auburn University, where she completed her BFA in musical theatre.

**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 21: Mark 8-10 and pages 53-86: Sacrifice, Ransom, Prophet, Messiah

### **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](mailto: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

## Today, 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](mailto: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** - Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet teachers in the Nook.

### **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.

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

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

**Gathering this evening, 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.

## Next Sunday, January 21

### **Town Hall: Operations Budget**

**Sunday, January 21 at 10:35 am in the Sanctuary and by Zoom** Meeting ID: 886-0975 -2661, Passcode: 5835 or call in: 312-626-6799 (standard rates)

The Finance Team's final affirmed 2024 operations budget will be published on Jan. 17 at [richfieldumc.org/statements](http://richfieldumc.org/statements). Church members are encouraged to read it before voting at the church conference on Jan. 28 and/or ask questions at the town hall.

### **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**

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### **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](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** - 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. A memorial service will be held on Sat., Jan. 27, 2024, at 11:00 am with the visitation the hour prior to the service.

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 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

### Monday, January 15, 2024

*Church building closed for MLK Jr. Day*  
7:30 pm Gospel of Mark Class

### Tuesday, January 16, 2024

*Coffee with the Pastor*  
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, January 17, 2024

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

### Thursday, January 18, 2024

6:30 pm Beacon Gathering:  
Congregational Convening

### Friday, January 19, 2024

### Saturday, January 20, 2024

8:30 am Men's Group  
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group  
1:00 pm The Event (youth gathering)

### Sunday, January 21, 2024

9:00 am Gospel of Mark Class  
9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:35 am Town Hall: Operations Budget

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Antonisia Collins, Greg Locke, Lyra Olson, Rev. Nate Melcher, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, 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 January 14 is Gretta Thorson.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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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](http://richfieldumc.org/land).