



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 21, 2024 at 9:30 am
Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Moonshadow”
Victor Zupanc, soloist

by Yusuf/Cat Stevens

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

There are times when God calls us to come and rest, be at peace.

**Wisdom meets us like a friend,
settling our anxiety and bringing us comfort.**

There are times when God comes to us through chaos and disorder.

**Love moves like a mighty wind,
troubling all efforts to dominate and control.**

God brings stillness.

God stirs up.

God is restful and restorative.

God is wild and disruptive.

Let us welcome God in all forms,
trusting the Spirit through confusion and clarity.

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Centering Prayer

Holy Companion, so much violence is born from our need to control. Every day, fear and uncertainty are weaponized through words, policies, and institutions. In a world that idolizes security, teach us to be open to the gifts of letting go. May we not be reckless with vulnerability, but practice patience with discomfort and solidarity through trouble. 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

“Oh, Kind Jesus”
Chancel Choir

by Robert Hunter

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-10

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Up on the Mountain, Down in the Valley” Rev. Nate Melcher
“Intro to Jesus” Worship Series 3 of 6

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

“Watchful’s Song” by R. Vaughan Williams
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

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 Deliverance, we pause during this time of worship to return to you some of the monetary riches that you have given to us. While we wait in pensive silence, we are reminded to set our hearts and minds on your steadfast love. You alone are our rock, our fortress, and our salvation. We experience comforting solace in your refuge. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

UM Hymnal 557

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Victor Zupanc, soloist

by Rossetti/Holst

**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 28: Mark 11-12 & pages 87-108

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

Today, January 21

Town Hall: Operations Budget 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 was published on Jan. 17 at richfieldumc.org/statements. Members are encouraged to read it before voting at the church conference on Jan. 28 and/or ask questions at the town hall.

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: Now—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.

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!

Next Sunday, January 28

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.

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

Legacy Letters: A Two-Part Series, February 8 and March 14. 1:00-2:30 pm

(both in-person & online offerings) **It is strongly encouraged to attend both sessions.**

Session 1: Sharing Our Lives and Preserving Our Legacies: Why Legacy Letters Matter

Session 2: Give the Greatest Gift of All: Complete a Legacy Blessing Letter

Presenter: Lynne Kolze, Legacy Letter Facilitator and Author

\$10.00 for both sessions. Fee for in-person participants only. Pay at the first session.

Please RSVP by Sun., Feb. 4. Sign up in the Commons, call the office (612-861-6086), or email kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

Ongoing and Open

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

February 5, 2024 - The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osmer

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, Nancy Zwickey, 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:

Clarice Lien and family in the death of her sister, Annabelle.

The family and friends of Herb Doty who died on Dec. 23, especially David and Dortha Doty. A memorial service is set for 11:00 am on Sat., Jan. 27, with visitation the hour prior to the service.

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 21, 2024

Souper Bowl Soup Drive Continues

- 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

Monday, January 22, 2024

- 7:30 pm Q&A Live Online with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Coffee with the Pastor

- 7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Friday, January 26, 2024

Saturday, January 27, 2024

- 8:30 am Men's Group
- 10:00 am Doty Visitation
- 10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group
- 11:00 am Herb Doty Memorial Service

Sunday, January 28, 2024

- 9:00 am Gospel of Mark Class
- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:35 am Pot Luck
- 10:50 am Church Conference

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Pat Eder, 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 21 is Kate Currie.

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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.