



February 4, 2024 at 9:30 am  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Bold = in unison

\* Rise in body or spirit

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

by Mason/arr. D. Hegarty

Sonja Gustafson, organ

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Let the faithful prepare!

**The time will come when this era will end.**

The seasons will turn.

**The powers that destroy will be turned over.**

Signs of new life will emerge.

**We do not know the day nor the hour.**

Come, Incarnate One, and turn us toward the age to come.

1. **My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day be wholly thine!**
2. **May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!  
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**
3. **While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

### Prayer of Confession

Faithful One, hear the groans of your people, weary in body and in spirit. Loss. Grief. Isolation. Exhaustion. They wear down the soul. Where there are ways we can better care for ourselves and others, enable us to make it so. Where we are doing all there is to do, and still it is difficult, sustain us day by day. May your presence abide until the new dawn breaks. 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

“Lo, A Voice to Heaven Sounding”  
Chancel Choir

by Dmitri Bortniasky

### Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:14-23, 32-37

[Jesus told his disciples,] “But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; the one on the housetop must not go down or enter to take anything from the house; the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not be in winter. For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now and never will be. And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved, but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. And if anyone says to you at that time, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘Look! There he is!’—do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be alert; I have already told you everything.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Little Apocalypse”  
“Intro to Jesus” Worship Series 5 of 6

Rev. Nate Melcher

## 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](http://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      "Kennst Du Das Land"      by Mark Adamo  
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\*      “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”      UM Hymnal 101  
verses 1, 2, 4

1. From all that dwell below the skies,  
let the Creator's praise arise;  
let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land by every tongue.
2. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
eternal truth attends thy word.  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.
4. In every land begin the song;  
to every land the strains belong;  
in cheerful sounds all voices raise,  
and fill the world with loudest praise.

Benediction\*

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

Postlude      “Sonata No. I: I”      C. Ore

**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

Next Sunday we finish up our reading of the entire Gospel of Mark & Amy-Jill Levine's book, *The Gospel of Mark*. For Feb. 11 read: Mark 14-16 and pages 129-148: Judas Iscariot and the Naked Young Man

### Today, February 4

**Be a Taste Tester.** In advance of the Youth Super Bowl Snack fundraiser sale on Feb. 11, you have the opportunity to sample snacks and vote for your favorite.

**Pub Theology—February 4 (First Sundays,) 7:00 pm-8:00 pm (in-person only)**

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

Drop-in to discuss faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Be part of the informal atmosphere and talk with people of many generations about faith

questions big and small. More information: <https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology>

**SOUPer Bowl of Caring Drive: Now—February 11**

Bring your donations of canned soup to the Commons area or donate online.

### Winter Movie Nights: Tuesdays in February at 5:00 pm

This February, we are watching movies together on Tuesday evenings. Movies start at 5pm, and there will be tables set up for families to eat during the movie. Snacks will be available too. All ages are welcome to enjoy these family friendly films.

**February 6: The Peanuts Movie;** February 13: Lilo & Stitch; February 20: Babe;

February 27: Kung Fu Panda

### Film Theology: February 7

**First Wednesdays at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm—Hybrid: Grace Room & 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. Next film to see and discuss: February 7 - *The Book of Clarence* (release date: Jan. 12)

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

**Legacy Letters: A Two-Part Series February 8 and March 14**

It is strongly encouraged to attend both sessions.

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

**Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 2:30 pm** (both in-person and online offerings)

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

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 2:30 pm,** (both in-person and online offerings)

**Presenter:** Lynne Kolze, Legacy Letter Facilitator and Author

**\$10.00 for both sessions.** Fee is for in-person participants only. Pay at the 1st session.

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

### Next Sunday, February 11

**Sunday School** - Following the Time with Children, meet teachers in the Nook.

**Youth Ministry Fundraiser—Youth** are selling snacks. Stock up for the big game.

**Team Colors Sunday—**Whether it's a football team t-shirt or a hockey jersey, your current school colors or your alma mater, we'll have a vibrant, colorful Sunday gathering to worshipping God with a little fun.

**SOUPer Bowl Concludes—**Last day to bring in your soup donations.

## **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

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**Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00pm** (in-person only)

Begin the season of Lent with this interactive worship service of music, prayer, and spiritual practices - including the imposition of ashes. If you cannot be present in-person and wish to celebrate Ash Wednesday, you are encouraged to participate in one of the Ash Wednesday worship services in the [Richfield UMC archives](#), dated [February 17, 2021](#) or [March 2, 2022](#).

## **Ongoing and Open**

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

February 5, 2024 - The [Thursday Murder Club](#) by Richard Osmer

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.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who are ill: Paula Milani, 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, Helen, daughter of Herb Doty, Pat Robertson, Rev. Marylee Fithian, and Nick Dewey.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Jane Parry.

We pray for those who grieve.

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, February 04, 2024

*Home Communion Sunday*

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 10:30 am Snack Taste Testing
- 10:35 am Reconciling Team Meeting
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology

### Monday, February 05, 2024

- 1:30 pm Women Who Read
- 5:00 pm Parish Companion Meeting

### Tuesday, February 06, 2024

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Winter Movie Night

### Wednesday, February 07, 2024

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Film Theology
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 08, 2024

- 1:00 pm Time for Life

### Friday, February 09, 2024

- 7:00 pm Youth: Snack Production

### Saturday, February 10, 2024

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

### Sunday, February 11, 2024

*Team Colors Sunday; SOUPer Bowl Drive Ends*

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Snack Sale: Youth Fundraiser

## 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: Pat Eder, Rev. Bill Johnson, Steve Warner

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 February 4 is Pat Norton.

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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).