



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 25, 2024 at 9:30 am
Second Sunday in Lent



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Chorale”
Chancel Bell Choir

by P. Tchaikovsky

Welcome

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Call to Worship*

To journey into Lent is to bear witness to the cross.
It is hard to look. It is easy to turn away.
To be the church in Lent is to bear one another up.
It is hard work. It is easy to give up.
We journey together. We bear witness together.
We refuse the easy way. We look to the Lord.

1. Faith, while trees are still in blossom,
plans the picking of the fruit;
faith can feel the thrill of harvest
when the buds begin to sprout.
2. Long before the dawn is breaking,
faith anticipates the sun.
Faith is eager for the daylight,
for the work that must be done.
5. Faith believes that God is faithful:
God will be what God will be!
Faith accepts the call, responding,
"I am willing, Lord, Send me."

Centering Prayer

Mighty God of Grace and Glory, gather us in and hold us dear. Jesus went to that terrible hill and we are left in anguish. We desire your revelation of a new world where the traumatic grip of pain and loss can no longer touch us. Bring us your solace, show the world your healing power. May all that is Faithful and True prevail. 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

Gail Johnson

*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 "Would I Have Answered When You Called" by Stuempfle
Victor Zupanc

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Rev. Chris Kliesen-Wehrman

Gospel Readings

Matthew 27:27-29 New International Version (NIV)

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

Mark 15:17 *Living Bible*

Then the Roman soldiers took him into the barracks of the palace, called out the entire palace guard, dressed him in a purple robe, and made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head.

Luke 22:63-65 *Common English Bible*

The men who were holding Jesus in custody taunted him while they beat him. They blindfolded him and asked him repeatedly, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" Insulting him, they said many other horrible things against him.

John 19:2-3 *The Voice*

The soldiers twisted thorny branches together as a crown and placed it onto His brow and wrapped Him in a purple cloth. They drew near to Him, shouting and striking him: Bow down, everyone! This is the King of the Jews!

Scripture Reading Revelation 19:11-13, 16 *The Message*

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider was called Faithful and True.... His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many royal crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He wore a robe dyed with blood, and his name was called the Word of God. He has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: King of kings and Lord of lords.

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

Sermon

"Through a Crown of Thorns"

Rev. Chris Kliesen-Wehrman

"Notable Narratives" Worship Series 2 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

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

UM Hymnal 327

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

THANKSGIVING

Doxology*

UM Hymnal 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*

Redeeming Lord, we find it extremely difficult to deny ourselves. Our relationships and our future aspirations often seem absent of glorifying your holy name. Instead, we deceive ourselves into equating good works with faithful discipleship. The Gospel reminds us that we are called to bridge the gap between casual commitment and true discipleship. We give this offering as a way to move toward closer discipleship with you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

"The Summons"
vs. 1, 4, 5

TFWS Hymnal 2130

- 1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
- 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Benediction*

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

Postlude

"Fields of Gold"

by Sting

**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, February 25

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

“Notable Narratives” A Lent Daily Devotional is Available

The 2024 Lent daily devotional is available in print on campus and online at <https://richfieldumc.org/devo>. During Lent, a devotion will be posted daily on Facebook. This year we have a daily devotional for Lent, with a twist. In many daily devos, we read what others have written about, giving thanks for what they have shared with the world. This time, the writer is you, and this devotional is about what you have to share with the people in your lives. It is time to write your “Notable Narrative.”

Girl Scout Cookies—Richfield UMC girls involved in Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after worship again this year on February 25, March 3, and March 10. Stop by the table in the Commons Area.

Support Affordable Housing—We are joining our mission partner, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, in a postcard campaign in support of safe, affordable housing. Join members of your Church & Society Team following worship on February 25, March 3, and March 10 to send postcards to your state legislators, telling them why housing is important to you.

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.

The final film is: **February 27: Kung Fu Panda**

Next Sunday, March 3

Children’s First Sunday—This worship service will feature our children leading us in a variety of roles throughout the service. If you are interested in helping our children learn these skills, or to sign up your child, please email Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

Toddler Sunday School—aimed at our youngest children. We meet on the first Sunday of most months to teach our youngest children, ages 2-5 more about Jesus. Meet in the Nook following the Time with Children to proceed to Fellowship Hall.

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

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

Next Gatherings: March 3, April 14 (note 2nd Sunday in April)

Pub Theology is drop-in discussion about 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>

Film Theology

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:

March 6—*Bob Marley: One Love* (Release Date: Feb. 14, 2024)

Ongoing and Open

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

March 4, 2024 - Matrix by Lauren Goff

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, Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Ann Johnson, Robert McCoy, stepson of Curt Stull, Rev. Marylee Fithian, Pat Robertson, and Marlene Davis.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Jane Parry and Joyce Walls.

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 25, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Beacon: Postcard Campaign
- 10:30 am Girl Scout Cookie Sale

Monday, February 26, 2024

- 7:00 pm Groth Scholarship Committee

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Coffee with the Pastor

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

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

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

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Friday, March 01, 2024

Saturday, March 02, 2024

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

Sunday, March 03, 2024

Children First Sunday

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Toddler Sunday School
- 10:30 am Beacon: Postcard Campaign
- 10:30 am Girl Scout Cookie Sale
- 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, Victor Zupanc, Chancel Bell Choir

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Gail Johnson, Rev. Chris Kliesen-Wehrman

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, 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 February 25 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.