



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 14, 2024 at 9:30 am  
Third Sunday of Easter



**Bold = in unison**

**\* Rise in body or spirit**

## ENTRANCE

Prelude      Duetto from *Songs Without Words* Op. 72, No. 18 by F. Mendelssohn  
Sonja Gustafson, piano

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Let us prepare our hearts for God's holy work.

**Let us ready ourselves for Divine disruption.**

As the earth longs to flourish and the people dream of rest.

**God has promised to show us the way.**

Setting down our egos, taking up our faith.

**We seek the seeds of transformation.**

Wisdom is here, alive and among us. Let us receive her truth.

1. Blessed Jesus, at thy word  
we are gathered all to hear thee;  
let our hearts and souls be stirred  
now to seek and love and fear thee,  
by thy teachings sweet and holy,  
drawn from earth to love thee solely.
  
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till thy spirit breaks our night  
with the beams of truth unclouded.  
Thou alone to God canst win us;  
thou must work all good within us.
  
3. Glorious Lord, thyself impart!  
Light of light, from God proceeding,  
open thou our ears and heart;  
help us by thy spirit's pleading;  
hear the cry thy people raises;  
hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

### Centering Prayer

God of rebirth, renewal, and restoration - we acknowledge how easy it is to get stuck in our ways. While we wish for radical change in the world, we still struggle to discern what change is needed from us. We turn to you for guidance. Release us from that which holds us back in mind, body, and spirit, that we might move together in the directions of freedom. 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

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

## Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:1-9

Gail Johnson

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” And he said, “If you have ears to hear, then hear!”

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

Sermon

!  
“The Grammar of God” Worship Series 1 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

“Here I Am, Lord”

arr. Janet Vogt

## 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\*

Forgiving Parent of us all, we faithfully give witness to your work in this world by sharing these gifts and offerings. You shared your Son, Jesus, so that we may repent of our sins and be saved. Thank you for providing us with the example of how to courageously place your call of discipleship into action. We pray that we may live each day according to your holy ways. In the name of the Great Teacher, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

# SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*

“Jesu, Jesu”  
vs. 1, 3, and 5

UM Hymnal 432

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love, show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)**
- 3. These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)**
- 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. (Refrain)**

Benediction\*

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

Postlude

Prelude in C Major

by J. S. Bach

**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, Sunday, April 14**

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**Children's Sunday School**—Meet teachers in the Nook after the Time with Children.

**UMCOR Sunday: April 14 - Special Collection & Kit Packing after Worship**

UMCOR Sunday is one of six designated special Sundays of the United Methodist Church. During worship, we celebrate this Sunday by taking a **special offering to benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**. This special offering help underwrite the administrative costs of UMCOR so that 100% of funds given to response and recovery efforts are sent to where they are needed most. Then, **following worship, help pack hygiene kits in the Fellowship Hall**. These kits contain the items that people need most during a time of crisis. The kits will be sent to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Illinois, where they can be deployed whenever they are needed to respond to people in crisis.

**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: April 14 (note 2nd Sunday in April) and May 5

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 info: [richfieldumc.org/pubtheology](http://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology)

**Next Sunday, April 21**

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**Children's Sunday School**

**Who are the United Women in Faith?**

On Sunday April 21st, after the worship service, gather in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and information about the United Women in Faith. Learn about programs, charities supported, and small group opportunities. All are welcome.

**High School Youth Group Meeting** after worship in the Grace Room.

**The Apollo Club Spring Concert**

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**Friday, April 26 at 7:30 pm, Richfield UMC Sanctuary**

The Apollo Club presents "Songs of the Open Road" that you can enjoy on your next road trip. Come on a musical journey together! Richfield UMC members can get discount tickets in advance with coupon code **THXRUMC** (No spaces) at <https://theapolloclubmn.ticketspice.com/spring-concert>. As part of our user agreement, The Apollo Club requests this coupon code only be used by church members and as the host venue, we have agreed to these terms, thank you. We need 2-4 servant volunteers to offer hospitality and welcome as greeters. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Nate, thank you.

**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 date to discuss: May 1 *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* (release date: March 22)

**All Youth Trip to Feed My Starving Children**

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Saturday, May 4, the youth will take a field trip to Feed My Starving Children to do a service project together. Contact Rev. Hope, [hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org)

## Ongoing and Open

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

May 6, 2024 - *Once We Were Home* by Jennifer Rosner

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, Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Robert McCoy, stepson of Curt Stull, Rev. Marylee Fithian, Bev Crandall’s nephew, Jeffrey, Lori Claussen, and Harvey Ehman, brother of Roxie Hillger.

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, April 14, 2024

#### UMCOR Sunday

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am UMCOR Kit Packing
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology

### Monday, April 15, 2024

#### Tuesday, April 16, 2024

#### Coffee with the Pastor

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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

### Thursday, April 18, 2024

### Friday, April 19, 2024

### Saturday, April 20, 2024

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

### Sunday, April 21, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Who Are the United Women In Faith?
- 10:45 am High School Youth Group

## 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, Gail Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Dale Olson

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 April 14 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](http://richfieldumc.org/land).