



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 28, 2024 at 9:30 am
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

by William Bradbury

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Guide the way, community and wise teachers!

Guide the way, simplicity and generosity!

Guide the way, devotion and mindfulness!

Guide the way, courage and expansive dreams!

We gather, rejecting what shrivels our souls, and guided by Liberating Love.

Let us Worship God.

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
gather us in - the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old - who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in - the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Centering Prayer

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Living Christ, guide us in divesting from the ways of the world rooted in violence and indifference. Accompany us in soulful living – deeply invested in each other’s thriving and courageously practicing hope – that we might be the embodiment of your Compassionate Kingdom. 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

“The Rainbow Connection”

by Paul Williams

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-37

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

?

Rev. Nate Melcher

“The Grammar of God” 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 “What the World Needs Now Is Love” by Burt Bacharach

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*

Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We humbly acknowledge your gift is an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. We share these tithes and offerings today with the hope that your children everywhere will be anointed with the knowledge that your perfect love casts out all fears. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“All Who Hunger”

TFWS Hymnal 2126

1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
2. All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
3. All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“God Is Not a White Man”

by Michael Gungor Band

**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 28

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

Tying Blankets for Caring For Children Help prepare the material for 60+ blankets for the children in our childcare program. Today, following worship - Dexterous adults needed as we sort, prep, and cut the fabric for the project. Experience with cutting polar fleece is helpful; templates and some tools will be available. We expect to be done by noon.

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

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

Next Sunday, May 5

“Church Hat Sunday” is May 5

Coming to worship in an amazing “church hat” is a beloved tradition in many churches, and we will try this on for size. Celebrate God with style on May 5, the day after the Kentucky Derby with all its fashion and fascinators, wearing your favorite hat, be it fancy, well-worn, or a family heirloom.

2024 Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions. This year's Love Offering will help neighbors heal from trauma and find safety.

- 30% goes to a new trauma care center in Ukraine
- 30% goes to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network
- 30% goes to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services' new Restoring Waters facility
- 10% goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships for first-time mission trip participants

Toddler Sunday School, ages 2-5

Sunday School aimed at our youngest children. We meet on the first Sunday of most months. Meet in the Nook following the Time with Children.

Tying Blankets for Caring For Children Following worship, help tie the knots for 60+ blankets for the children in our childcare program! All ages are welcome as we tie the blankets. NO experience is needed. We expect to be done by 11:30, you are welcome to stay/leave as you desire.

Pub Theology—First Sundays, May 5 from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm (in-person only)

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

Pub Theology is drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. More info: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

Sunday, May 12: Kevin Kling, Master Storyteller Coming to Richfield UMC

On May 12, Kevin Kling will be in worship, please invite your friends.

Kevin Kling, best known for his popular commentaries on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and his autobiographical tales which are enchanting and deliver hilarious, often tender moments. Kling grew up in Minnesota and lives in Minneapolis.

General Conference is April 23-May 3, 2024 After several pandemic delays, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets in Charlotte, NC on April 23-May 3, 2024. You may hear about it on the news, and wonder about its impact on us as an Annual Conference and as a local church. To get the best information before, during, and after General Conference, here are a few resources to follow: www.umnews.org/en/ is the official news source for The United Methodist Church. Sign up for their daily digest email. www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020 has all the legislation, all the updates, and all the livestreaming video all week long.

Ongoing and Open

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

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

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, Robert McCoy, stepson of Curt Stull, Rev. Marylee Fithian, Harvey Ehman, brother of Roxie Hillger, and Mitzi Taylor.

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 28, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Prepare Materials for Blankets

Monday, April 29, 2024

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Wednesday, May 1, 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, May 2, 2024

Friday, May 3, 2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024

- 8:30 am Men's Group
- 10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group
- 1:45 pm All Youth Trip to Feed My Starving Children

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Home Communion Sunday

Church Hat Sunday

Love Offering May 5-19

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Toddler Sunday School
- 10:45 am Tie Blankets for CFC
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Pat Eder, Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, 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 28 is Gretta Thorson.

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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.