



July 21, 2024 at 9:30 am
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Poor Wandering One”
from Pirates of Penzance
Jerusha Burdette, vocalist and Groth Scholar
Wesley Frye, accompanist

Gilbert & Sullivan

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Alicia Owens

What does God require of us?

God wants justice.

What else does God want?

God wants faithful love.

Anything else?

God wants us to walk humbly with God.

1. **Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**
2. **Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.**
3. **Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Centering Prayer

**Come, Holy Wisdom, and show us your ways. In our confusing world,
many voices demand our attention. Teach us to look with your eyes.
Help us walk humbly beside you - doing what is right, speaking your
truth. You alone are our guide and guardian on paths of peace and
reconciliation. 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

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Chancel Choir

by John Rutter

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Sermon

“Why do we do what we do in worship?” Rev. Nate Melcher
“So Many Questions” Worship Series 5 of 9

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

"The Lord Is My Light"
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

by Oley Speaks

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*

Glorious God, we like to practice random acts of kindness. Your Word even confirms that we further your kingdom when we show kindness and compassion to another person. We pray that Jesus' life and teaching may be our example for sharing intentionally our talents, prayers, time, and offerings. We humbly give this offering as an expression of our faith. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* “God Be with You till We Meet Again” UM Hymnal 672

1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;
neath his wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. (Refrain)

3. God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again. (Refrain)

4. God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again. (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude “The Flower of the Field” Jocelyn Hagen
Jerusha Burdette, vocalist and Groth Scholar
Wesley Frye, accompanist

**Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.**

Welcome Jerusha Burdette, Groth Scholarship recipient
Jerusha Burdette will be a Freshman at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN. She will be studying Vocal Performance and Communications Sciences and Disorders. Jerusha is a graduate of Washburn High School, Minneapolis, MN.

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

Summer Movie Nights: Wednesdays in July starting at 5pm (remaining dates: July 24, 31)

Summer is here, and that means Summer Movie Nights! We are watching movies on Wednesday night. Movies start at 5pm, and there will be tables set up for families to eat while the movie starts. Snacks will be available during the movie as well. **The lineup:**

July 24: Fantastic Mr. Fox

July 31: Charlotte's Web

Summer Worship Series: "SO MANY QUESTIONS" Continues

Hybrid: In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online

Prelude begins *before 9:30 am*, please arrive early

This year, the "So Many Questions" topics are based on online search results about religion reported by Answer the Public and the latest data research reports on the state of religion in the US from Mission Insight and Springtide Research Institute. We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome.

July 21 - Why do we do what we do in worship?

July 28 - What if I feel lonely?

August 4 - Why is everybody burned out?

August 18 - Is God a Swiftie?

August 25 - Can anything be a spiritual practice?

Next Outdoor Worship—Sunday, August 11 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am

[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield (free parking at Ice Arena)

Come for the finale of the Summer Outdoor Worship Series: "And I Say It's All Right: Beatles at the Bandshell"

Note for online worshipers: While the outdoor summer worship series happens at the bandshell, online and phone worshipers will experience a hand-selected trio of worship service rebroadcasts.

Coffee with the Pastor—9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Tuesdays

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to check-in, connect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link or call the office. Meet at Starbucks (54th and Lyndale). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

2024 Is Our Church's 170th Birthday

This milestone birthday is our chance to celebrate our ministry and outreach in the community since 1854. **In August, we are finalizing our plans for the fall celebration, so we want to hear from you now!** To help your church celebrate 170 years of history and dreams of what's to come, please contact Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086.

The annual Fall Food Drive runs August 11-September 29 and benefits VEAP, our longtime partner who is celebrating 50 years serving the community. More information will be coming soon.

Ongoing and Open

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

The August 5, 2024 book is Horse by Geraldine Brooks

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 in the Sanctuary:

The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for having a quiet or wiggly moment.

Art Cart - Children can fill a bag with items in The Nook to bring with them to worship with their families in the pews.

Time with Children - Children of all ages are invited to experience a message just for them. Parent/guardians are welcome to join their children too.

Sunday School - September-May

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 seek healing: 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, Mitzi Taylor, Don

Morrow, Lori Claussen, John Darling, Rexi Warner, and Steve Warner.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Winona Davis and Inez Gustafson.

We pray for those who grieve:

Mary Kay Petersen and family in the death of Mary Kay’s daughter, Betsy. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 1 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Visitation will be the hour prior to the service.

The family and friends of Jane Parry who died on June 25. A memorial service was held on July 12 at Bridge Church in Black River Falls, WI. Memorials may be directed to your choice of charity.

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, July 21, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:35 am Reconciling Ministries
Team Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2024

- 7:30 pm Choir Director Search Team

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

- Coffee with the Pastor*
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:00 pm Summer Movie Night
Fantastic Mr. Fox

Thursday, July 25, 2024

- 7:00 pm CYF Ministry Team

Friday, July 26, 2024

Saturday, July 27, 2024

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

Sunday, July 28, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Musicians: Jerusha Burdette, Wesley Frye, Sonja Gustafson, Tanner VanderKrabben
Liturgists: Rev. Nate Melcher, Alicia Owens
Tech: Juan Nieves Lebrón, Dale Olson, 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 July 21 is Gretta Thorson.

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Richfield United Methodist Church

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Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.