



September 15, 2024 at 9:30 am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Praeludium II”
by F. Mendelssohn

Sonja Gustafson

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Gail Johnson

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

Day pours forth speech and night declares knowledge of our God.

God’s wisdom is written in the stars and to the ends of the earth.

Our souls are revived and our hearts rejoice.

We shall bless God’s name with our words and the silence between them.

Gathering Hymn* “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” UM Hymnal 79

1. **Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before thee;
all on earth thy scepter claim; all in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain; everlasting is thy reign.**
2. **Hark, the glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord.**
3. **Lo! the apostolic train joins thy sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow.
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.**

Centering Prayer

O God, we long for you - for your love, your wisdom, your grace. We long for the words of your mouth when we cannot find our own. We long for the courage to speak and sing your blessings. We pray for the wisdom to keep silent, rather than speak words of harm. Be our vision, O God, and our voice. 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

Becca Whitaker

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

**“God So Loved the World”
by John Stainer**

Chancel Choir

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

James 3:1-12

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we both bless the Lord and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

Gospel Reading

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterward, Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom. The Twelve were with him, along with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses. Among them were Mary Magdalene (from whom seven demons had been thrown out), Joanna (the wife of Herod's servant Chuza), Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“God Sends Messengers”
“Footnotes of Faith” Worship Series 2 of 4

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 supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.

Thank you for your extravagant generosity.

Offertory

“Shower the People”
by James Taylor

Victor Zupanc

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*

O God, you challenge us to deny ourselves in order to follow you. We are not accustomed to denying ourselves often. Pop culture promotes instant gratification. Self-help experts profess self-care as the key to contentment. Financial consultants advise clients to pay themselves first. Yet, you call us to give in return for life, to deny ourselves to follow you, to set our minds on divine things rather than human things. Help us in this offertory moment to focus on you as we sacrificially give our tithes and offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

UM Hymnal 559

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy faithful loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.
3. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“Moonshadow”
by Cat Stevens

Victor Zupanc

**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

Penn Fest: Today, Sunday, September 15, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Visit the Richfield UMC booth, near Freewheel Bike Richfield at 6824 Penn Ave S., and check out all the action along Penn Avenue from 62nd to 76th Streets. The Street is closed to motorized traffic during the event. There will be music, dance, sports, games, crafters, artisans, kids activities, and food.

The Annual Fall Food Drive: Now through Sept. 29

The drive benefits VEAP, our longtime partner who is celebrating 50 years serving the community. Pick-up the list of needed items. Or, donate online at richfieldumc.org/give

2024 Is Our Church's 170th Birthday

We are celebrating our church's 170th birthday all October long. We are planning a birthday celebration for after worship on Sunday, October 27. Anyone who wants to help make this happen, please contact Pastor Nate today at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.

Prayer Partners Returns (Adults matched with children Grades K-12)

Begins Sept. 29 after worship (10:40-11:00 am) Children and their matched adults will connect for around 20 mins with a guided check-in, a moment to pray, and a snack. Adults, to pair up this year contact Becca Whitaker at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org.

Coffee with the Pastor

New Day: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Thursdays, Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher
Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to check-in, reconnect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link (if you cannot go online, please call the office) for a meeting at Starbucks (5351 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis). Your drink is on Pastor Nate.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12) 6:15 pm-7:30 pm

1st Wednesdays of the Month, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4—Youth Group returns at an earlier time. On 1st Wednesdays, we'll have pizza, check-in and have an activity such as a card game, Jackbox games, Pub Theology with root beer floats, service projects, and more.

Pub Theology, First Sundays, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm, Dates: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

Location: Davanni's Pizza and Hoagies (6345 Penn Ave S, Richfield) Pub Theology is a drop-in, informal discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Arrive early to order a tasty beverage and/or dinner, then stay for spirited conversation led by Pastor Nate.

Toddler Sunday School (Infants - Preschool) 9:30-10:20 am: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

Parents/Guardians can bring their toddler and preschool-age children to Toddler Sunday School for a Bible story, a snack, and free play on the **1st Sundays of the month**. All children are welcome to return to the sanctuary to receive Holy Communion with their families, too. RSVP to help us plan, contact Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org.

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

Amazing Hummingbirds! With Stan Tekiela, naturalist and photographer
New day: Tuesday, October 8th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm; social dessert time to follow
Cost: \$5.00 for in-person participants; payable the day of the event
RSVP: No later than Sunday, October 6th. Sign up in the Commons, call the church office (612-861-6086), or email kbergeland@richfieldumc.org
The Church Bus is Available: Please call the church office (612-861-6086) by Wednesday, Oct. 2nd, if you would like to ride the church bus.

Ongoing and Open

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

To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. The book for October 7, 2024 is West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read.

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 - (Grades K-6) After Time with Children in worship, the Sunday School teachers lead children to the classroom for a Bible story, a snack, and an activity. **2024 Sunday School (9:40 am-10:30 am):** September 15, September 22, October 13, October 27, November 10, November 17, December 8, December 22.

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: 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, John Darling, Michele Wegscheid and family, and Rev. Bill Johnson.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani.

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, September 15, 2024

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 pm Children's Sunday School
1:00 pm Penn Fest

Monday, September 16, 2024

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

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

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Friday, September 20, 2024

Saturday, September 21, 2024

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

Sunday, September 22, 2024

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 pm Children's Sunday School
11:00 am Youth Outing to Minnesota's
Largest Candy Store

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Chancel Choir, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Gail Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher, Becca Whitaker

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 September 15 is Pat Norton.

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- Copyright and license agreements can impact our ability to always present expansive language for God and inclusive language for humankind. All are invited to sing or pray the words on their heart. For more, visit richfieldumc.org/worship.
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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.