RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 3, 2026 at 9:30 am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Bold = in unison *** Rise in body and/or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude — Song Without Words, Op. 102, No. 47, Mendelssohn — Sonja Gustafson

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

We arrive in humility, we arrive seeking grace.
We pray to a God of healing and mercy.
All shall be lifted up by the Lord.
May the love of Christ lift our spirits.
There is a Spirit who looks to us now.
To God's Spirit be all glory.

Gathering Hymn* "To God Be The Glory" UM Hymnal 98

1. **To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**
   So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
   who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
   and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father [Creator] thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. **O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,**
   to every believer the promise of God;
   the vilest offender who truly believes,
   that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)
3. **Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,**
   and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
   but purer, and higher, and greater will be
   our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, you open the life gate that all may go in, and we praise you with joy and gratitude. We confess there are days when our humility leads us closer to your mercy. We confess there are days when our hubris leads us astray from your promise. Forgive us our comparisons of our best to their worst. Bring your uplifting wisdom into our lives. Hear us now in our silent confessions to you…

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Time with Children Becca Whitaker

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Please greet your neighbor here - & online - with mutual signs of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate
the moments this week when your life's journey met God's heart.

Celebration Music "It's Me" Chancel Choir
Spiritual, arr. C. Edward Thomas

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Luke 18:9-14 Sarah Callahan

Jesus told this parable to certain people who had convinced themselves that they were righteous and who looked on everyone else with disgust: "Two people went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself with these words, 'God, I thank you that I'm not like everyone else—crooks, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of everything I receive.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn't even lift his eyes to look toward heaven. Rather, he struck his chest and said, 'God, show mercy to me, a sinner.' I tell you, this person went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."

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

Sermon "How to Get There, How to Get Here" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Scandal" Worship Series 2 of 5

Responsive Hymn "He Leadeth Me" v. 1 UM Hymnal 128

1. **He leadeth me: O blessed thought!**
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sacrament of Holy Communion UM Hymnal p. 17, setting A

The LORD be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the LORD.
Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the LORD.
Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen, amen, amen.

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.

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.

Receiving the Sacrament

Music During Communion

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea" UM Hymnal 357
verses 1, 5, 6

1. **Just as I am, without one plea,**
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. **Just as I am, thou wilt receive,**
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. **Just as I am, thy love unknown**
hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Prayer After Receiving the Sacrament

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.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" UM Hymnal 66
verses 1, 2, and 4

1. **Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,**
   to the throne thy tribute bring;
   ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
   evermore God's praises sing.
   Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting God.
2. **Praise the Lord for grace and favor**
   to all people in distress;
   praise God, still the same as ever,
   slow to chide, and swift to bless.
   Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.
4. **Angels in the heights, adoring,**
   you behold God face to face;
   saints triumphant, now adoring,
   gathered in from every race.
   Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Benediction*

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

Postlude Toccata
by Marius Monnikendam

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, May 3

"Church Hat Sunday" Spring arrives with a fun twist in worship. Thanks to all those wearing hats today, the day after the Kentucky Derby.

Maple Syrup Sale Today
After worship, get your 12-ounce bottle of 100% pure maple syrup from Minnesota maple trees. Your $10 purchase price benefits the children and youth ministries.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Pancake Breakfast this morning in support of the youth mission trip in October and other field trips.

Thank you to our Home Communion Ministers who this week will take communion to members who are unable to attend worship in person.

Pub Theology | This evening, Sunday, May 3, First Sundays at 7:00 pm-8:00 pm Pizza Lucé (800 W 66th St, Richfield) Led by Pastor Nate, Pub Theology is a drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage.

Live Zoom Q&A with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

Tomorrow, Monday, May 4, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 Passcode: 5835
Prof. Amy-Jill Levine joins us for a live Q&A session about her book, *Short Stories by Jesus*. We're excited to have a prominent scholar of Jesus and a Richfield UMC favorite join us once again. You're encouraged to bring a question, bring a friend, and bring excitement to this unique opportunity to engage an amazing author.

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship Together

Program: Spring Sing! with QuintEssence
Date: This Tuesday, May 5
Time: Luncheon at 12:00 pm; program, 1:00-2:00 pm
Cost: $15.00, payable the day of the event
The deadline to sign up has already passed. If you did not sign up but are interested in attending, please contact Nurse Kay at kbergeland@richfieldumc.org to see if there is space available.

Next Sunday, May 10

Music Splash | Worship is filled with music this Mother's Day with the return of Music Splash! This special morning is the perfect occasion to invite friends and family to experience the lovely variety of music we have as Richfield UMC. Arrive early for the prelude, and enjoy a worshipful morning including: Hymns praising God and inspiring hope, Chancel Choir singing classic anthems, Sonja Gustafson playing the incredible organ, and Victor Zupanc leading sing-a-long favorites. This is one of our biggest worship services of the year and it's all thanks to our amazing musicians, your generous giving, and the blessing of your presence. See you there!

Love Offering | May 7-31 with special collection on Sunday, May 10
Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. This year's Love Offering will benefit the following ministries: Midwest Mission *30% of the 2026 Love Offering;* Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches *20% of the 2026 Love Offering;* The Endowment for Theological Education *20% of the 2026 Love Offering;* Minnesota Conference Emergency Response Fund *20% of 2026 Love Offering;* Volunteers in Mission Scholarships *10% of 2026 Love Offering*

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting May 4, 2026. The book to read and discuss is Solar Storms by Linda Hogan. 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.

Night Owl Bible Study | Wednesdays at 9:00 pm Through May 27
Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799. Busy days? Up late at night? This is the Bible study for you. Open to all.

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 worshiping 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)** Second and fourth Sundays during worship time 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.
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:

- People in need of a loving church home.
- Our church's journey toward vitality.
- The babies and toddlers who are cared for each weekday by CFC (Caring For Children, the early learning ministry at the church) and their families.

Our prayers are a beautiful expression of care and solidarity for each other.
We pray in celebration and gratitude.

We pray for those who seek healing: Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Jim Vetsch, John Darling, Shar Salisbury, Bob Mills, Donis (Burt) Andrews (sister of Shari Burt), Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Ron Doncavage, Cooper Pacyga, grandson of Jen Pacyga, Phyllis Killam, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, Phyllis Olson, and Wes Mellgren.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani, Dorothy DeFreese, and Rev. Lynn Borgeson's brother, Dale.

We pray for those who grieve: The family and friends of June Berglund. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm with visitation the hour prior to the service.

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, May 03, 2026
Church Hat Sunday
Maple Syrup Sale
8:00 am-9:30 am Pancake Breakfast
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
1:00 pm Berglund Visitation Time
2:00 pm June Berglund Memorial Service
7:00 pm Pub Theology

Monday, May 04, 2026
1:30 pm Women Who Read
7:30 pm Zoom Q&A with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

Tuesday, May 05, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
12:00 pm Time for LIFE
7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 06, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:00 pm Church & Society Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Thursday, May 07, 2026

Friday, May 08, 2026

Saturday, May 09, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, May 10, 2026
Love Offering
Music Splash
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Staff: Rev. Nate Melcher, Kay Bergeland, Kathy Gertsema, Sonja Gustafson, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker, Victor Zupanc
Musicians: Chancel Choir, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson
Liturgist today: Sarah Callahan
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, 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 May 3 is Kate Currie.

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