

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
January 28, 2024, 9:30 a.m.



2980 130th ST E, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150

www.littleprairieumc.org

Our vision: Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Gathering Music

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service arr. by Rachel Porter

Marcia Yernberg

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the company of the upright in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are trustworthy. **They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

God's works extend to you and me and the whole community as the Spirit nurtures gifts and graces in each of us.

Great are the works of the Lord, whose love and grace endures forever!

God raises up some to be prophets to help us follow God's voice, yet all are called to lead by following.

We affirm the gifts of those who are called to be truth-tellers in our midst, helping us all to answer the call to be truth-doers. Great are the works of the Lord! Amen.

(based on Psalm 111 and Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

Hymn of Praise *Praise the Lord, the Almighty (UMH # 139)* **All**

Opening Prayer

God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people,
calling us back to your covenant, and teaching us your ways.

In the fullness of time, you sent us your Son Jesus,
teaching with such authority, that our eyes were opened to see your ways anew.

Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand
and proclaim your teachings for all to hear. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

Mark 1:21-28

Message

"A New Teaching with Authority"

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Wounded World that Cries for Healing (TFWS #2177) **All**

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People

Confession

Holy God, hear our prayer. You send prophets and saviors to help us, to save us, to raise us, and our response is to question You.

You heal someone's beloved, and we ask, "Why not this one too?"

You shower food upon some who hunger, and we complain that our stomachs are growling. Forgive us.

Forgive us not for our doubts, but for our limited perspective.

Open wide before us the vista of your grace, and the expanse of your love, and the wonder of your healing power. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the Good News: At some time, each one of us has been lost in many different ways.

But now we are indeed found, and not simply found, but rejoiced over, and cherished, and beloved. Alleluia! Amen.

Offering

O Christ, the Healer arr. by Lynette Maynard

Marcia Yernberg

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH # 95) All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love known to all. Then, most often we leave and return to our weekday lives, expecting someone else to make that happen.

Remind us that your prophets, your leaders, your missionaries, were called and raised up from "among the people."

Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send.

We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher and our redeemer. Amen.

And the Prayer in which Christ unites us . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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.

Hymn *Lord, Speak to Me (UMH # 463)*

All

SENDING

As you go from this place, may God bless you with open hearts to recognize the gifts and graces in one another and in your neighbors, open minds ready to dream with the Spirit, and open doors ready to welcome the reign of God's love right here and right now. May a stranger see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you, the Spirit fills you, Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. **Amen.**
God Bless! Go in love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude *Sonata in G Major by Domenico Scarlatti*

Marcia Yernberg

INFORMATION

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French
Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks
Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson,
Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, Lay Leader: Theresa Siemers, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen
Finance Committee Chair: Larry Alderks, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions: Karen Nelson, Outreach and Nurture Chair: Jeff Sartor

Snow shoveling:

Thank you to Kevin Larson for shoveling this week.

Week of Jan 28-Feb 3: Bruce Stowe

Website



Online giving



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon. January 29, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M

Fri. February 2, 5:30pm: Youth Group at Theresa's

Sat Feb 3, 9:30am: Soul Sisters (see Theresa Siemers for details)

Sat February 10, 5 pm gathering, 6 pm dinner: Valentine's Dinner with family catered by Ruth on Stafford

Wed February 14, 7 pm: Ash Wednesday

Wed February 21, 5:30 pm: Lenten Soup Suppers begin

Fri March 22, 3-8:00 pm: Fish Dinner

See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org.