

First Sunday of Advent
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
December 1, 2024, 9:30 a.m.



Hope Filled Anticipation

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
arr. Mark Hayes

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Tune: Veni Emmanuel
Luann Alderks

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Call to Worship

Call to Advent by J. Jerome Williams *Little Prairie Choir*

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, Creator, Holy One, God, Lord of every nation, we know that you are coming. Help us be alert to watch for your arrival. *"So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near."* (Luke 21:31)

Come to us now, in spirit and truth. Let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (UMH # 196)* *All*

The Advent Wreath

Lighting of the first Advent candle

Betzold Family

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here. But what does it mean for us to prepare? What does it mean to “get your house in order” for the coming of the Lord? **Can we ever be perfectly ready and know exactly when? Yet, we have *hope* for God’s unexpected arrival, when God’s kingdom of love, justice and mercy will reign. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Hanging of the Greens

Sharing the Peace

Children’s Moment

Light One Candle

by Natalie Sleethe

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-33

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Hope Filled Anticipation

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (UMH # 206) All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

God of the ages, we are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter.

In Jesus Christ you began a new creation, sending him to be the Light of the world, to drive away fear and despair, and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love. Especially we thank you for the beauty of your creation, for coming in Jesus Christ to share our human life, for the place you give us in your continuing creation, for the promise of peace among nations, and justice for all peoples and for the Church as the sign of your coming kingdom.

Mighty God, prepare the world for your rule, for we long for the day when there shall be no more crying or tears, and death will be destroyed. Help us to share the ministry of Christ and be agents of his compassion.

Especially we pray for the nations of the earth and peace in the world, for those caught in war, for victims and survivors of violence, for those who are sick and suffering;

For our families and friends, for the Church and those who serve in Christ's name. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering *"Gentle Shepherd" by William & Gloria Gaither*

Sung by Jef & Mary Jo Olson

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

Holy Communion

Lord's Table

May the God of all 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.

Communion Prayer in Music

And the prayer which 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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup (*Choir serves Communion*)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Tune: Picardy arr. Mark Hayes Words for reflection hymn #626.

Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (*UMH # 213*) **All**

SENDING

Beloved, go from this place blessed with a hope that takes root and grows, preparing us to notice, listen, and join in with God's kingdom work among us. May the love of Christ be fully present in you, so that a stranger will 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. God Bless!

Go in love, peace, joy. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude *"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" by Timothy R. Matthews arr. Mark Hayes*
Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

Upcoming Events

Tues. Dec. 3, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Tuesday)

Wed. Dec. 4, 9:00-10:30 am: Pastor Penny at James Gang Coffee

Wed. Dec. 4, 5:30-7:00 pm: Soup Supper and Book study, *The Book of Forgiving*

Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for schedule and details)

Sat. Dec. 7, 11-5 pm: Little Prairie ringing for Salvation Army at Cub Foods

Fri. Dec.13, 5:30-8:00 pm: Confirmation and Youth Group

Sat. Dec 14, 10-12:00 pm: Christmas Program practice

Sat Dec 14, 11:00 am: Christmas Craft making

Sun. Dec.15, 9:30 am: Children/Youth Christmas Program

Mon. Dec. 16, 7:00pm: Admin board meeting

Sat. Dec. 21, 9-12:00 pm: Christmas Bake Sale

Tues. Dec. 24, 4:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candle Light service.

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks, Certified Lay Minister and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions and Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst

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

Website



Online Giving



Poinsettias

In Honor of

All our children and grandchildren

In Memory of

Our Families
Family
Ed Akey & Harold Little

Lloyd and Ethel Tupper
Barb & Ken Bonsell
Rob & Alice Hollenhorst
Charlie Hollister
Dick and Judy Kasa
Dick and Lois Stowe
Our Parents and Grandparents
Our Family
Darlene Gain
James Code
Our Parents
Richard and Judy Kasa
Lois Stowe & Richard Stowe

Given by

Mel & Ruthi Henrichs

Given by

Jim & Pam Williams
Emily and Quinten Burt
Pete & Deb Little

Pastor Penny Bonsell & Tom Hollenhorst

Cherrie Hollister & Family
Tom & Bonnie Stowe

Mel & Ruthi Henrichs
The Ostermann Family
Rebecca Stoufis
Harriet Code
Jef and Mary Jo Olson
Bruce and Kim Stowe

Christmas Trees

In memory of Our Parents

Ross and Karen Nelson