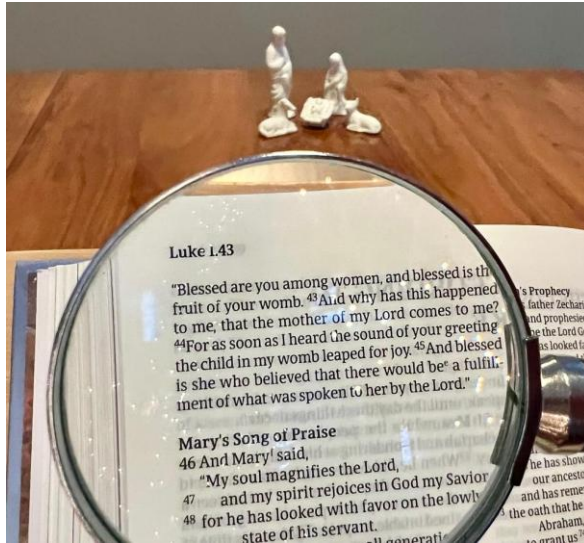


**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**  
**December 22, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**



***"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"***

2980 130<sup>th</sup> ST E, Dundas, MN 55019  
507.663-6150

[www.littleprairieumc.org](http://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*

*"Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song) by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton*  
*Luann Alderks*

**Welcome**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**Centering Time**

## **Call to Worship**

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**We wait as people of God's promise.**

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

**We listen as people of God's promise.**

Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

**We follow as people of God's promise.**

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.*

**Hymn**    *Once in Royal David's City UMH#250*

*All*

**The Advent Wreath – Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**         *Larson Family*

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Little Prairie of Dundas from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

**Music**         *Light One Candle*

**Opening Prayer:**

God of the impossible and unlikely,

**God of pregnant old women and virgins,**

you turn our conventional world upside down,

**where the hungry are fed, and arrogant rich are turned away.**

Instill in us unthinkable marvels.

**Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen**

*Adapted from Bob Eldan. Posted on the Pilgrim Uniting Church*

## **Sharing the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Christ!**

**Children's Moment  
Kids' Club**

*Light One Candle... (of Love!)*

*Natalie Sleethe*

### **THE WORD**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**Luke 1:39-45**

**Luke 1:46b-55**

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

**Message**

*"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"*

**Special Music**

*"Quia respexit" from Magnificat by Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Sung by Penny Bonsell*

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH #240*

*All*

## **Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People**

**Offering**

*"What Child Is This?" Traditional English Melody arr. Tom Fettke*

*Luann Alderks*

**Doxology**

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

*All*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth.

**Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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**    *O Come, All Ye Faithful*    *UMH #234*

*All*

## SENDING

Go, now, in the blessing of God's promise and in the assurance that our expectant joy and love will find its fulfillment in the God who was, who is, and who will be with us always. God sends you, the Spirit fills you and Christ goes with you and you with Christ always and everywhere! **Amen**

**God Bless! Go in hope, peace, joy and love. Shalom. Amen.**

**Postlude**        *"Mary, Did You Know" by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene arr. Mark Hayes*  
*Luann Alderks*

## INFORMATION

### Upcoming Events

Mon. Dec. 23, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Tuesday)

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

Wed. Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

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

See our website for more details at [www.littleprairieumc.org](http://www.littleprairieumc.org).

### Website



### Online Giving



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

## **Poinsettias**



### **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

### **In Honor of**

All our children and grandchildren

### **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

### **Given by**

Mel & Ruthi Henrichs

## **Christmas Trees**

In memory of Our Parents

Ross and Karen Nelson