

Christmas Eve
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
December 24, 2024, 4 pm



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 *"The Little Drummer Boy" by Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati, and Harry Simeone arr. Mark Hayes*

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne arr. Mark Hayes

Prelude: *"O Holy Night" by Adolphe Charles Adam arr. Mark Hayes*

Luann Alderks

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Call to Worship

For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,

Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,

Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,

Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,

Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

For you who feel the ache of loneliness,

Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,

Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

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

Opening Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (UMH #230, vs. 1,2 &4)

Introduction Jeff Sartor, Performed by the All Men's Choir

The Advent Wreath - Lighting of the Christ Candle

French Family

Reader One: Today, we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. As we celebrate the birthday of our Savior, let us embrace the divine love and life that is revealed in Jesus Christ.

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

Children’s Choir

Bethlehem Night

Opening Prayer

God of Light, we are here to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus, the Light of the World.

In the darkness it may be where we may see your life-giving flame most truly.

Guide us to follow your pure light of peace and love. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world.

Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful (UMH #234, vs. 1,3 & 6)*

All

THE WORD

Scripture and Carols

Luke 2:1-5

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. (Luke 2:1-20)

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (UMH #211, vs. 1&2)*

All

Luke 2:6-7

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn *Away in the Manger (UMH #217, vs. 1&3)*

All

Luke 2:8-11

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Hymn *Joy to the World (UMH #246, vs. 1,2 &4)*

All

Luke 2:12-14

¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High (UMH #238 vs.1-3)* *All*

Luke 2:15-18

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Hymn *The First Noel (UMH #245 v.1&2)* *All*

Luke 2:19-20

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (UMH #240 vs.1&2)* *All*

Matthew 1:1-2, 9-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ⁹They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Hymn *What Child Is This (UMH #219 v.1&3)* *All*

Message *Light of the World* *Pastor Penny Bonsell*

THE RESPONSE

Offering: *"On This Still, Silent Night" by Laura Farnell*
 Sung by Little Prairie Choir

Prayers of the People & Prayers of Thanksgiving

We have waited for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God. Even now, in our gathering here, we await you. In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the darkness of this world and guiding all the people back to you.

Yet you did not come into this world in a show of power and glory, yet, as a tiny spark – a newborn baby, visible to parents and curious animals in a stable.

Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light in the midst of shadows in this world. May we be the continuation of the Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore. Amen.

Special Music: *Light In the Stable by Shea Birdwell*
 Sung by Jeff Sartor and Beth Momberg

And the prayer Christ gives 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.

Special Music: *"Night of Silence" by Daniel Kantor arr. John Ferguson*
 Sung by Elisabeth Alderks and Mark Granquist

Lighting of Candles: *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*
 Mel Henrichs, Hammered Dulcimer

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night (UMH #239)* *All*

SENDING

Beloved, may you go in the blessing of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the joy of the world, and may you carry this gift of Light and joy everywhere you go, working for peace, unity, justice, and mercy for all people. God sends you to share the Light of the World. God Bless!

Go in love, joy, and peace and hope. Merry Christmas! Shalom! Amen.

Postlude:

"Silent Night" by Franz Gruber arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

Upcoming Events:

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

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.

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

Given by

Jim & Pam Williams

Emily and Quinten Burt

Pete & Deb 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

Christmas Trees

In memory of Our Parents

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

Ross and Karen Nelson