

The First Sunday after Christmas
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
December 29, 2024, 9:30 a.m.



“At Home”

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 *"Mary's Little Boy Child" by Jester Hairston arr. Mark Hayes*
Luann Alderks

Welcome *Pastor Penny Bonsell*
Centering Time

Call to Worship
Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!
God has come to make a home among us!

Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

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

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly #229 UMH

All

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, may we be found and may we find a place called home, a place where faith holds us and grace renews us

Where forgiveness longs for us to be who you will us to be

May we find a place called home where we are accepted as we are

Where we are taken in and loved unconditionally

A place called home where we belong and our souls fit and our questions are allowed our anger is heard, and our needs are recognized.

A place where our pain is held, our names are known, may this be that place,

O God,

This community, this group of travellers and doubters and companions on the way

This home where your place is our place and this place isn't a building but a way of being together in a relationship held together by love.

Loving God, Homecoming God may we make this a home to all who still yet seek a place of grace-filled sanctuary and gracious welcome. So be it. Amen.

Based on a poem by Roddy Hamilton

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

Children's Moment

Kids' Club

THE WORD

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

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

Message

“At Home”

Pastor Penny Bonselll

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Joy to the World UMH #246

All

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People

Most Loving God, because you knew how unjust and sometimes corrupted our humanity can be, you sent us your Holy Son—

We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he has saved us from our sins.

Because you have stood in our shoes and understand how difficult it is to live by the rule of law in an often cold, unfeeling, and ruthless world—

We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he is this very day saving us from all our sins.

Because you have given us a gracious spirit, forgiving those who sin against us, and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation in a fractured world—

We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior, for he will save our world from its many sins

Assurance and silent prayer

God of Christmas, God of unspeakable grace, forgive and renew us all, that our lives may declare the wonders of that Holy Love that has called us out of darkness into glorious light. Amen!

Based on a prayer from Bruce Prewer

Offering *“He Is Born, the Holy Child” French Anonymous arr. Kathleen Massoud*

Luann Alderks

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of Light and Love, we offer these gifts with hearts transformed by the miracle of your son’s birth. As Mary and Joseph discover Jesus a child in his Father’s house they were amazed with joy and praise. **May these offerings spread your joy and love. Use them to bless those in need, to bring hope and peace, and to further your kingdom here on earth. In this season of Christmas, may we continue to glorify and praise you in all we do. 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

Go Tell it on the Mountain #251 UMH

All

SENDING

Beloved, may God bless you with transformation, because together we have encountered the incarnate Christ who makes a home among us and sends us home never to be the same again. 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

"Hallelujah Joy" ("Hallelujah Chorus" by George Frederick Handel/"Joy to the World" Tune: Antioch) arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

Upcoming Events

Tues. Dec 31, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Tuesday)

Wed. January 1! Happy New year!

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