

# Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

## February 2, 2025, 9:30 am



*“The Greatest of These is . . .”*

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[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**

*Luann Alderks*

**Welcome/Announcements**  
**Centering Time**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

### **Call to Worship:**

Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

**We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

**We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

**We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

**We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

**Hymn:**            *God of Love and God of Power UMH # 578*

*All*

**Opening Prayer:**

In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope.

**In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace.**

In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion.

**In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love.**

In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy.

**May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact,**  
the message of your reign which is always coming into our world;

**And may our quietly prophetic lives be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. Amen.**

*Written by John van de Laar*

**Sharing the Peace  
Children's Moment**

**THE WORD**

**Psalm 71**

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

**Luke 4:21-30**

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

**Message:**            *"The Greatest of These is . . . "*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Hymn:**            *The Gift of Love UMH #408*

*All*

**Joys/Concerns/Prayers of the People**

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News.

**But sometimes, we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar.**

You call us to share the Good News with those around us.

**But sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well.**

You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better.

**But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them.**

In the multitude of ways, we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening, we have left the path of true wisdom

**and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.**

*...time of silent prayer...*

*Words of Assurance*

This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives,

**Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven, and free people through the grace of God! Hallelujah! Amen.**

*Adapted from Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings,*

## Offering

*Luann Alderks*

*Doxology Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #95*

## 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.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

### Communion Prayer

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

#### Hymn:

*Here I Am Lord UMH #593*

*All*

## **SENDING**

May God our Creator renew in us the creative Spirit that brings healing and life to our world. May Jesus the Christ uphold us in grace and love. May the Holy Spirit fill us with courage to be bearers of God's song of hope in our hometown and beyond. May a stranger find in you a friend. In the name of Jesus, the hope of our salvation. **Amen.**

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

## Postlude

*Luann Alderks*

## **INFORMATION**

**Tues Feb 4, 8:30 am** Breakfast Club, L&M

**Wed. Feb 5, 9-10:30 am** Pastor Penny at James Gang Coffee

**Wed. Feb 5, 5:30 pm** New Member Meeting with soup

**Fri. Feb 7, 5:30pm** Confirmation and Youth Group

**Sat. Feb 8, 9:00am** Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

**Sat. Feb 8, 5 pm** Valentine's gathering with family and friends, with Jazz music

**Tues. Feb 11, 1pm** Finance committee meeting

**Tues Feb 18, 1pm** Admin board meeting

**Fri. April 11, 3-8:00 pm** Fish Dinner

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