

Epiphany of The Lord
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
January 5, 2025, 9:30 am



Seasons of Love
2980 130th ST E, P.O. Box 276, 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 *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson arr. Mark Hayes*
Words for meditation hymn #206 *Luann Alderks*

Welcome/Announcements
Centering Time

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Call to Worship:

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.

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

Hymn:

The First Noel UMH # 245

All

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, reveal to us this day what our eyes look for but cannot see; what our ears hear and cannot understand.

Shine your light on the pages of our lives.

In the places where we share the dark, everyone looks bright, and everything looks right. We are not anxious to move out of our darkness where we are fooled. In the darkness, our motives are not clear, our ideas are not voiced, and our relationships are not questioned.

When your light shines, everything is like an open window. Let your light continue to shine in our hearts and help us to make a world filled with justice and peace, for here we see clearly in Light. We praise you and pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Message:

"Seasons of Love"

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn:

We Three Kings UMH #254

All

Joys/Concerns/Prayers of the People

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world.

We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety.

And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety.

Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.

Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer-Assurance of Pardon

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Offering: *"Away in a Manger" Tune: Mueller arr. Mark Hayes* *Luann Alderks*

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

Holy Communion *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Tune: ES IST EIN ROS' arr. Mark Hayes*
Luann Alderks

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: *Sing We Now of Christmas* *UMH #237* *All*

SENDING

Beloved, go from this place carrying the blessing of the Light who has come among so that the love of the Christ child may shine within you, casting rays of good news wherever you go. May it brighten every room you walk in, every conversation you have, and every person you encounter, now and forevermore. 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: *"Behold That Star" by Thomas W. Talley arr. Mark Hayes*

"Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder. Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem!"

Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

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

Tues. Jan 7, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Tuesday)

Fri. Jan 10, 5:30-8p: Youth group and confirmation

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

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