

Third Sunday in Lent
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
March 23, 2025, 9:30 a.m.



My Soul Thirsts for You, O God

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 *"As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom arr. Mark Hayes*

Luann Alderks

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Call to Worship

Children of God, what has God done for you?

God saves, provides, and holds us in God's steadfast love.

Consider and remember: in the joyful times and in the sorrowful times, what has God done for you?

God covers us and lifts us up, protecting and empowering us with steadfast love.

When you have been like the fig tree in Jesus' story that seems unable to produce and that everyone has given up on, what has God done for you?

God tends the soil and waters the ground, nurturing us into life with steadfast love.

Children of God, come, let us worship God who never gives up on us!

We come to worship and cling to God, for God's steadfast love never fails!

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

Hymn of Praise *Just as I Am, Without One Plea UMH #357 All*

Opening Prayer

We are wounded, worried, betrayed, afraid, and injured. We are physically, mentally, and emotionally challenged.

Drink from these waters and you will never thirst again.

We chase thrills, happiness, wealth, health, longevity, *him, her*, peace; the right job, the right look, anything to lessen our pain. We exhaust even ourselves with our efforts.

Drink from these waters and you will never thirst again.

We continue, broken—day in and day out, hopelessly applying quick fixes. The pain will not subside. We are beckoned by an eternal yearning. We remember a prayer that grandmamma taught us; a lesson learned the hard way, or a word from the Word spoken by a sage. We long for relief, we seek it, search for it, yearn for it—relief that can't be purchased or bartered.

Drink from these waters and never thirst again.

God we are grateful that your thoughts and your ways are higher than our own.

Thank you for forgiving our sins. Thank you for new mercies each new day. Thank you for always welcoming us back into fellowship with you. Thank you for providing waters from which we may drink and never thirst again.

Written by Toni Payne in The Africana Worship Book, Year C (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 89.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Psalm 68:1-8

Luke 13:1-9

These are the Words of God, **For the People of God. Thanks be to God.**

Message

My Soul Thirsts for You, O God

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart UMH # 629

All

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves
as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be.

Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence
So that may prepare our hearts for change.

Moment of silence

We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit.

In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way.

Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you.

Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps;

Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change.

There is another opportunity to bear good fruit

In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to kill,

We are called to be the change that sustains generations.

Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.

Words of Assurance

God's grace and mercy abounds.

God is with us in the change.

God's everlasting arms embrace us.

Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.

Amen.

Special Music

*"Change My Heart, O God" by Eddie Espinosa
Sung by Beth Momberg*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom.

In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal.

Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace.

Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness.

May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

Hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing UMH #519* **All**

SENDING

May God bless you with the hope to cling to God, knowing that in the highs and lows, the joys and the sorrows, the known and unknown of this life, God's love never fails. Thanks be to God! May a stranger see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you, the Spirit fills you, Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. **Amen.**

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

Postlude *"Hungry" (Falling on My Knees) by Kathryn Scott arr. Tom Howard*
Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

Upcoming Events:

Tues. Mar 25, 8:30 am Breakfast Club, L&M

Wed. Mar 26, 9:00-10:30 am Pastor Penny at James Gang

Wed. Mar 26, 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper and every Wed. through April 9th

Fri. Mar 28, 5:30-8:00 pm: Confirmation and youth group

Sat. Mar 29, 9-11:00 am Soul Sisters (See Theresa for details)

Fri. Apr 4, 5:30-8:00 pm Confirmation and Youth Group

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

Sun. April 13, Palm Sunday

Thurs. Apr 17, 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday

Fri. Apr 18, 7:00 pm Good Friday

Sun. April 20, Easter Sunday

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