

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



***It's Tempting***

*By Napoleon Abueva, Philippines*

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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**

*"At the Cross" (Beautiful Variations, M. W. Butler)*

*and Sts 1 & 2, UMH #359 Piano*

*"Poor Wayfaring Stranger" arr. Kim Robertson, Celtic Harp*

*Richard F. Collman*

**Welcome**  
**Centering Time**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

## **Call to Worship**

On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

**God, rescue us in the wilderness!**

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

**God, rescue us within the wilderness!**

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

**God, rescue us through the wilderness!**

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

**Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

**Hymn of Praise**    *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*    *UMH #110*                      *All*

## **Opening Prayer**

**God, you are our refuge.**

You are the shore in sight,  
you are hands that reach out,  
you are the ground on which to rest.

**God, you are our strength.**

You are the life we long for,  
you are the refusal to give up,  
you are the keys of home we carry with us.

**God, you are our help in time of trouble.**

We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,  
We call on you from the wilderness and the deep,

**ALL: We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.**

*Found in Cláudio Carvalhaes, Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 40.*

## **Sharing the Peace**

## **Children's Moment**

## THE WORD

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

**Luke 4: 1-13**

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

**Message**

*It's Tempting*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Hymn** *On Eagle's Wings (Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 787-insert)* *All*

### **Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People**

*Pastoral prayer*

Jesus,

We confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Of course, you passed the test, we say. You're God, right?

**But we mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did.**

**But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example.**

You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. And you walked away, resisting. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation.

**Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God's word and grace. Amen.**

*Written by Valerie Bridgeman Davis, The Africana Worship Book, Year C (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 146.*

**Offering** *"Nobody Knows the trouble I've Seen - All Day, All Night" arr. Mark Hayes (Piano) "Wondrous Love" arr. Sylvia Woods (Celtic Harp) Richard F. Collman*

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

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace.

**May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

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.**

**Hymn**            *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*            *UMH #269*            *All*

### **SENDING**

Beloved, you- you, who live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty —will find in God your refuge and fortress. Go now, in the blessing of the Triune God who shelters you and rescues you, that we all might be a shelter and a rescue for and with one another, where a stranger will 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**            *"Blessed Assurance" arr. David Cherwien*            *Richard F. Collman*

### **INFORMATION**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Tues. Mar 11, 8:30 am Breakfast Club**

**Wed. Mar 12 9am** Pastor Penny at James Gang

**Tues. Mar. 11, 1:00pm** Finance Committee Meeting

**Wed. March 12, 5:30 pm** Lenten Soup Suppers begin!

**Fri. March 14, 5:30-8:00 pm** Confirmation and Youth Group

**Sat. Mar 15, 9:00 am** Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

**Tues Mar. 18, 1:00pm** 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

Richard F. Collman is a bi-vocational retired UM minister and musician, having served in pulpits about 20 years and ministry of music about the same in MN, SD, NE, and back in MN. His last parish was in Motley, MN where he served 2002-2006 and helped relocate and build a new church there. Richard and wife Katherine retired to Northfield in 2006 where he remains active in the arts, played Celtic Harp for Northfield Hospital Hospice, and continues music ministry on the organ or piano bench at St. Peter's Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal. Richard founded the Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals in 2007 entering its 18<sup>th</sup> year this summer. He was last seen at Little Prairie UMC playing Celtic harp in the memorial service for the Rev. Phil Strom last August.