

A lit candle in a glass jar, surrounded by pine branches, pinecones, and star anise, set against a background of warm, bokeh lights.

2980 130th ST E, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150

Our vision: Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

Gathering Music *"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"* ("Christ, Be Our Light")
by Bernadette Farrell arr. Mark Hayes Luann Alderks

*Words for meditation:
"Christ be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ be our Light!
Shine in your church gathered today!"*

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Call to Worship

Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, Creator, Holy One, God, Lord of every nation, we know that you are coming, a light into the world where the darkness can overcome it.

Come to us now, in spirit and truth.

Let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will.

Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn: *Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus (UMH # 196)*

All

The Advent Wreath

Lighting of the first Advent candle

The French Family

First Reader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Second Reader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

All: We have hope for God's unexpected arrival, when God's kingdom of love, justice and mercy will reign. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Hanging of the Greens

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment *Light One Candle (verse 1)*

by Natalie Sleethe

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Isaiah 2:1-5

John 1:1-5

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

Message *Come let us walk in the light of the Lord!*

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Hymn *Blessed Be the God of Israel (UMH # 209)*

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

God of the ages, we are busy with the stuff of the holiday. Sometimes we turn to busyness because we don't know how to respond to the chaos in the world. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter.

In Jesus Christ you began a new creation, sending him to be the Light of the world, to drive away fear and despair, and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love. Especially we thank you for the beauty of your creation, for coming in Jesus Christ to share our human life, for the place you give us in your continuing creation, for the promise of peace among nations, and justice for all peoples and for the Church as the sign of your coming kingdom.

Mighty God, prepare the world for your rule, for we long for the day when there shall be no more crying or tears, and death will be destroyed. Help us to share the ministry of Christ and be agents of his compassion.

Especially we pray for the nations of the earth and peace in the world, for those caught in war, for victims and survivors of violence, for those who are sick and suffering;
**For our families and friends, for the Church and those who serve in Christ's name.
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offering *"Longing for Messiah" by Mark Hayes* *Luann Alderks*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign.

We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes.

Awaken us, Lord, to the "someday" you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity.

Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* *(UMH # 213)* *All*

SENDING

Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. May the love of Christ be fully present in you, so that 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. God Bless!

Go in love, peace, joy. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude *"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" by Jakob Hintze & J.S. Bach*

arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

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: Logan Crosby

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

Tuesdays, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, at L&M

Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am: Pastor Penny is at James Gang coffee shop

Thursdays, 5:30 pm Fall Bible Book Group. "Beatitudes for Today" by James C. Howell

Saturdays 9-11 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

Fri. Dec.12, 5:30-8:00 pm: Youth Group Christmas party

Sat. Dec 13, 10-12:00 pm: Christmas Program dress rehearsal

Sun. Dec.14, 9:30 am: Children/Youth Christmas Program

Sat. Dec. 20, 9-11am: Christmas Bake Sale

Tues. Dec. 24, 4:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candle Light service.

Photo Credit: ID 354399636© Tuong Le Dreamstime.com

We are providing an on-going donation bin for CAC in our entrance way.

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



Website



Online Giving