

Third Sunday After the Epiphany
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
January 25, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



He Said "Follow Me"

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

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time Words for reflection and inspiration

"Christ be our light. Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness
Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."

Call to Worship

Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Hymn:

Jesus Calls Us (UMH #398)

All

Opening Prayer:

God, our light and our salvation, Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom and called his disciples to be fishers of people.

Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation; through you, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Long, Kim. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A - Two-Volume Set: Liturgies for Year A (p. 85). (Function). Kindle Edition.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Scriptures:

(Isaiah 9:1-4)

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

Matthew 4:12-23

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

Message

He Said, "Follow Me"

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Hymn:

Take My Life and Let It Be (UMH #593)

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concern

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

God of all creation, who called every being into life, who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world, we ask for your Spirit to unite us where we face lack of understanding and disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries. And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts.

(Silence)

We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth and, in silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims.

(Silence)

We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbour, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures, and faith communities with respect and, in silence, we bring to you the brokenness of human relationships.

(Silence)

God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace. Amen

Posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/09/prayer-for-unity-amidst-diversity.html>.

Offering

"We Are Called" by David Haas arr. Mark Hayes

Words for reflection FWS #2172

Luann Alderks

Doxology

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold.

Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people—unafraid—become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen. (Psalm 27:1, 4-9)

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (TFWS #2129)

All

Sending

God is our light, our hope, our all in all: Blessed be God, now and forever! Christ is our home, our life, our joy: Blessed be God, now and forever! Our worship concludes; our service continues. 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 hope, peace, joy and love. Shalom. Amen.**

Postlude *"Shine, Jesus Shine" by Graham Kendrick 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, Nurture and Outreach: Barb Liebenstein, Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

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

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

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

Sat, Feb. 7, 4-6 pm: "For the Love of God" gathering

Wed, Feb 18, 7 pm: Ash Wednesday

Wed, Feb 25, 5:30 pm: Lenten Soup Suppers begin

We are providing an on-going donation bin for CACand Wallflower House in our entrance way. See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org



Website



Online Giving