



## **Call to Worship**

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

**We watch and wait in the incredible joy of the coming Messiah.**

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

**We watch and wait in the incredible joy of the coming Messiah.**

Beloved, listen. God is calling *you*. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

**We watch and wait in the incredible joy of the coming Messiah.**

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

**We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the incredible joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

**Hymn:**                    *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*    *UMH # 203*                    *All*

**The Advent Wreath – Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**                    Stoufis Family

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

**Hymn response-music**    *"Light One Candle" by Natalie Sleethe*    *Luann Alderks*

## **Opening Prayer:**

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory.

**We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name.**

We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

**Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace and Joy!**

**Children's Moment**      *Light One Candle... (of Joy!)*

*Natalie Sleethe*

**Kids' Club is in worship today**

**THE WORD**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

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

**Message**

*"Just a Little Christmas"*

*Youth/Children Christmas Program*

*Directed by April Ostermann*

**Special Music**

*Silent Night*

*Parker Kline, guitar*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Hymn**

*In the the Bleak Midwinter UMH #221*

*All*

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

**Offering**

*Carol of the Bells*

*Oliver Kline*

**Doxology**

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

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly.

**Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kin-dom.**

**Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

And the Prayer in which Christ 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**      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*      *UMH# 224*      *All*

### **SENDING**

Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the Kingdom of God has come and is yet coming. Christmas also is a season, and is not just one day. In our Christian calendar, Christmas is 12 days, symbolizing that Christmas is a life-style. May we prepare for the coming of the Christmas season so this season may live and reside in your hearts all year round! Let us join in singing the 12 Days of Christmas.

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

**Postlude**      *The Twelve Days of Christmas*  
                  *We Wish you a Merry Christmas*      *Irie French*

### **INFORMATION**

#### **Upcoming Events**

Mon. Dec. 16, 7pm: Admin board meeting

Tues. Dec. 17, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Tuesday)

Wed. Dec. 18, 9:00-10:30 am: Pastor Penny at James Gang Coffee

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

Sat. Dec. 21, 9-12:00 pm: Christmas Bake Sale

Sun. Dec. 22, 8:30 am: Choir practice. All are welcome! We will practice for the Christmas Eve service

Tues. Dec. 24, 4:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candle Light service.

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

**Children and youth Christmas program**  
**“Just a Little Christmas”**  
**Written by Sharon Kay Chatwell**



**Cast:**

Narrator 1: Ivy Ostermann

Narrator 2: Katerina Stoufis

Narrator 3: Irie French

Angel: Charlie Betzold

Mary: Caroline Betzold

Joseph: Jack Conrad

Emperor Caesar Augustus: Adriana Keilen

Shepherd: Jace Keilen

3 Kings: Jace Keilen, Liam Kline, Oli Kline

King Herod: Colton Conrad

Director: April Ostermann

Accompanist: Luann Alderks

Sound: Tom Hollenhorst

