

**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**  
**December 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**



*“Refining Love”*

2980 130<sup>th</sup> ST E, Dundas, MN 55019  
507.663-6150

[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**      *"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" Tune: ERMUNTRE  
DICH by Johann Schop, Harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach arr. Mark Hayes  
Hymn #223 for meditation*      *Luann Alderks*

**Welcome**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**Centering Time**

## **Call to Worship**

Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

**We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.**

Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

**We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.**

Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

**May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.**

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

**Hymn:**      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH #211*

*All*

**The Advent Wreath – Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**      Ostermann Family

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Hymn Response:** *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying TFWS #2193*      *All*

## **Opening Prayer:**

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves.

**Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give.**

Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice.

**Today we would be still enough to feel your touch.**

Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak.

**Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

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## **Sharing the Peace!**

**Children's Moment**

*Light One Candle...(of Peace)*

*Natalie Sleethe*

**Kids' Club (Formerly known as Sunday School;-)**

All kids are invited to come downstairs for a time of fun and adventure.

## **THE WORD**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

**Luke 1:67-70**

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

**Message**

*"Refining Love"*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Hymn**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming UMH #216*

*All*

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

God of Grace, you blow the breath of life into our lungs, you have formed us in your image to see...

**And yet we acknowledge that sometimes we are not who you would have us be.**

You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love, to meet you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with fuller's (washer's) soap.

**Help our refining love see those who are victims of war and oppression, and those who face obstacles and challenges of life. Help us see those who have not what they need.**

Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are,

**Unrefined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain.**

And help us to move into a new way of being

*...time of silence...*

God's Grace is wider than our wildest imagination. God's Grace embraces us as we are and where we are... and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Based on- Writings by Rev. Gord Waldie on his blog, **Worship***

**Offering** *"Lead Me Lord" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

*Sung by Little Prairie Choir*

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

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Loving God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, may our gifts help prepare the way for your kingdom.

**Use these offerings to bring hope, justice, and transformation. Help us to look beyond the surface, to see your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. In Christ's 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** *Angels from the Realms of Glory UMH#220*

*All*

### **SENDING**

Go, now, blessed with a passion that refines, molds, and shapes each of our hearts to reflect God's glorious love that transforms despair into hope, violence into peace, and distress into flourishing. Christ of goes with you and you with the Christ of always and everywhere. **Amen.**

**Go in hope, peace, joy and love! Shalom.**

**Postlude** *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Tune: HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard arr. Mark Hayes*

*Luann Alderks*

## **INFORMATION**

### **Upcoming Events**

Tues. Dec. 10, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Tuesday)  
Wed. Dec. 11, 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)  
Fri. Dec.13, 5:30-8:00 pm: Confirmation and Youth Group Christmas Party!  
Sat. Dec 14, 9-11:00 am: Christmas Program practice  
Sat Dec 14, 11:00 am: Christmas Craft making  
Sun. Dec.15, 9:30 am: Children/Youth Christmas Program  
Mon. Dec. 16, 7pm: Admin board meeting  
Sat. Dec. 21, 9-12:00 pm: Christmas Bake Sale  
Sun. Dec. 22, 8:30 am: Choir rehearsal for 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).

### **QR codes**

#### **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

## **Poinsettias**



### **In Honor of**

All our children and grandchildren

### **In Memory of**

Our Families

Family

Ed Akey & Harold Little

Lloyd and Ethel Tupper

Barb & Ken Bonsell

Rob & Alice Hollenhorst

Charlie Hollister

Dick and Judy Kasa

Dick and Lois Stowe

Our Parents and Grandparents

Our Family

Darlene Gain

James Code

Our Parents

Richard and Judy Kasa

Lois Stowe & Richard Stowe

### **Given by**

Mel & Ruthi Henrichs

### **Given by**

Jim & Pam Williams

Emily and Quinten Burt

Pete & Deb Little

Pastor Penny Bonsell & Tom Hollenhorst

Cherrie Hollister & Family

Tom & Bonnie Stowe

Mel & Ruthi Henrichs

The Ostermann Family

Rebecca Stoufis

Harriet Code

Jef and Mary Jo Olson

Bruce and Kim Stowe

## **Christmas Trees**

In memory of Our Parents

Ross and Karen Nelson

