

**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**  
**February 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**



***Temptation of Jesus***

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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**

*Only in God* arr. J. Talbot

*One There is Above All Others* arr. A. Bergen

*I Cast All My Cares Upon You* arr. K. Willard

*Nan Winsell*

**Welcome**  
**Centering Time**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

## **Call to Worship**

Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

**We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

**We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

**We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

**We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

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

## **Opening Prayer:**

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face.

**Journey with us through this wilderness.**

Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope,  
**so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

*Adapted from the Presbyterian Church USA website, <https://pcusa.org/>.*

## **Sharing the Peace**

## **Children's Moment**

## **THE WORD**

### **Scriptures:**

**Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

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

**Message**

*Temptation of Jesus*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**Hymn:**

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley (TFWS #2112)*

*All*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Joys and Concern**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

*A time of silence for personal confession*

Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.

**So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

*Written by Moira Laidlaw and posted on Liturgies Online, <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>.*

**Offering**

*O Love, How Deep: 15th century*

*Nan Winsell*

**Doxology**

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

*All*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, your grace is never far, your presence never absent. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels.

Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with you, even in the hard places. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

(Psalm 32, Matthew 4:1-11)

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 Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (TFWS #2051)*

*All*

### **SENDING**

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy, trusting that wherever you go, God's steadfast love surrounds you, sustains you, and supports you for the journey ahead. On your journey may a stranger 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**     *Grace! arr. D. Turner*

*Nan Winsell*

### **INFORMATION**

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, 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, Accompanist: Nan Winsell

### **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)

**Wed, Feb 18, 7 pm:** Ash Wednesday

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

**Friday, Mar 27, 3-8pm:** Fish dinner

**Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday**

See our website for more details at [www.littleprairieumc.org](http://www.littleprairieumc.org)



**Website**



**Online Giving**