

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 30, 2026, 9:30 am**



Here I Am

Little Prairie United Methodist Church
2980 130th ST E, P.O. Box 276, Dundas, MN 55019
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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

Nan Winsell

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Nan Winsell

Call to Worship

Sometimes God calls us through burning bushes, telling us to go free a whole people despite our insecurities and fears.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us, and we don't understand the full meaning of the call, the ways our families, friends, and communities may resist the good news and us as messengers of it.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us to a path that is harder than we think we can handle, asking us to trust that God will provide what we need.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Beloved, God's call takes many forms. Sometimes it feels as natural as breathing, and sometimes we want to run as far as we can. But take assurance in this: You are not alone.

God is with us, and God's call can be trusted, because no matter where it leads, God is there. God, help us accept your call on our lives and to trust that what you equip us to do is what you call us to do as members of the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! UMH # 64

All

Opening Prayer

Pour your Light, Holy Spirit of God, into our hearts and minds.

Help us to know more clearly and grasp more fully the Good News of Jesus.

And help us then to know how to share it.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who with You and the Father are One God.

Amen.

From the Diocese of Zululand, South Africa. Found in Prayer Encircling the World: An International Anthology (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 105.

Sharing the Peace

Baptism

Afton Marie Keilen

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me UMH # 191

All

THE WORD

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses at the Burning Bush

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb,^[a] the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” **4** When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” **5** Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” **6** He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9** The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. **10** Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” **11** But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” **12** He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

The Divine Name Revealed

13 But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” **14** God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”^[b] He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ” **15** God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord,^[c] the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [3.1](#) Gk: Heb reads *to the mountain of God, to Horeb*
- b. [3.14](#) Or *I am what I am* or *I will be what I will be*
- c. [3.15](#) The word “Lord” when spelled with capital letters stands for the divine name, *YHWH*, which is here connected with the verb *hayah*, “to be”

Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [16.23](#) Or *stumbling block*

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

Message

Here I Am

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Take my Life and Let It Be UMH #399

All

Joys and Concerns/Prayers of the People

Christ Jesus, our teacher and our friend, we have not listened for your word amid the clamor of words all around us.

We are more pleased to repeat familiar tunes than to listen for new melodies and strange harmonies.

We try harder to defend what we think we know than to reach for that which is beyond our grasp. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do your will.

We pray for hearts to pay attention to the cries of our neighbor and to resonate with your Spirit. Silence us and instruct us until we learn afresh to sing the songs of faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a child opens to the gift of forgiveness. God's Spirit reaches out to assure us of welcome in Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

Adapted from Allen P. Happ and David B. Bowman in Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, eds. Ruth C. Duck and Maren Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 118 and 124. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.

Offering

Nan Winsell

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, you call ordinary people from unexpected places and send them into hard and holy work. As you met Moses in the fire that did not consume, and as you met Peter on the road of costly discipleship, meet us now in these gifts we bring. Shape us by your presence, not by fear; by service, not by power; by love that risks itself for the sake of others.

Receive our offering as a sign that we trust your “I AM” to go with us and that we are willing to follow Christ, even when the way is demanding. Use what we give to bring freedom, healing, and hope to your world. Amen. (Exodus 3:1-15, Matthew 16:21-28)

And the prayer in which Jesus unites us...

The Lord's Prayer

All

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

Here I Am Lord UMH #593

All

Sending

Beloved, when the path is easy and when the path is rough, when God calls through a burning bush or a still, small voice or a loving rebuke, remember: you are not alone. May God bless you with the courage and humility to accept God's call and with the assurance

that if God calls you, God will equip you as God sends you. The Spirit fills you if you let it. Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere... even when you feel unsure... Jesus is with you. God Bless! **Amen.**

God Bless! Go in hope, love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude

Nan Winsell

INFORMATION

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