The Reign of Christ Sunday
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
November 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



Shepherd of Love

2980 130th ST E, P.O. Box 276, 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 *Marcia Yernberg*

Welcome *Pastor Penny Bonsell*

Centering Time *Marcia Yernberg*

Call to Worship
Family of God, on this Reign of Christ Sunday, we celebrate and remember Christ, who reigns over all creation with love and grace, forming us as a family bound together by God.
We come to worship Christ, who cares for the least of these and calls us to do the same.
We gather to recount all the ways we encounter Christ in our midst—in our neighbor who checks in when we're sick, in our unhoused friends who gather for a meal, in our friends who have been wounded in body and spirit.
We come to worship Christ, who cares for the least of these and reminds us to do the same.
We join our voices with Christians throughout the world and throughout time to give thanks and to seek guidance as we grow in love of God, neighbor, self, and creation.
We come to worship Christ, who cares for the least of these and inspires us to do the same.
Come, you blessed by God, with open hearts, open arms, and open doors to welcome and embrace all of our neighbors, because when we love our neighbors, we love Christ among us.
We come to worship Christ, who cares for the least of these and empowers us to do the same. Thanks be to God! Amen.
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2026.

Hymn *Come Ye Thankful People Come* *(UMH # 694)* ***All***

Opening Prayer
Sovereign God, the wind blows, the water flows, and the sun shines. All creation declares your majesty.
In you, we move, live, and have our being. Be glorified in our worship. Be known by our testimony.
We proclaim your goodness from the east and the west, from the north and the south.
On countrysides and city blocks, you reign. In deep valleys and skyscrapers, we declare that your realm extends from everlasting to everlasting. We worship you, Holy One, in spirit and in truth. Amen.
Written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay and posted on the Worship Ways website of the United Church of Christ at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/reign-of-christ-b-november-24/.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

The Word

Scripture Readings
Psalm 97:1-7a

The Glory of God's Reign

1 The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
3 Fire goes before him
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
4 His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
5 The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples behold his glory.
7 All servants of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;

Gospel of Matthew 25: 31-46

The Judgment of the Nations

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing

to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Message *Shepherd of Love* *Pastor Penny Bonsell*

Response to The Word

Hymn *Wounding World that Cries for Healing (TFWS #2177)* ***All***

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People:

In the lives of neighbors who suffer brokenness and pain:
We confess you are still speaking!
In the struggle of the poor whose rights are not honored:
We confess you are still speaking!
In a world crying out for wisdom, love, and mercy:
We confess you are still speaking!
In a world calling for the blessing of truth:
We confess you are still speaking! Bless us to receive!
Let us confess together: We confess that in our lives we often hide behind our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and fashion.
We let ourselves get so busy that we forget the cause of the poor and the suffering. We confess we allow the powers of this world to seduce us into selfishness and silence our witness. Teach us to champion the cause of justice for all; strengthen us to love our neighbor and speak truth no matter the penalty. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Word of God assures us that we are able to love through the Spirit of Christ,whose grace forgives and empowers us to love our neighbors near and far, to speak up for those who are broken. Beloved, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

Adapted from LT Leticia Rouser, chaplain in the United States Navy. Posted on the United Church of Christ's ***Worship Ways*** *website, http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/06/confession-you-are-still-speaking.html.*

Offering *Marcia Yernberg*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Compassionate Shepherd, you have blessed us beyond measure and taught us to find your face in the hungry, the lonely, the stranger, and the forgotten.
Receive these gifts and receive our lives, that we may become people whose generosity flows not from obligation but from love.
Use our offerings to feed, welcome, comfort, and restore, so that others may glimpse your kingdom through our care.
And when we serve our neighbors, awaken us to the holy mystery that we are serving you. Shape us into disciples whose greatest joy is to love as Christ first loved us. Amen. (Matthew 25:31-46)

And the Prayer that 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is UMH #138* ***All***

Sending

May God bless you with open heart, open arms, and open doors to welcome the neighbor—known and unknown—with compassion and care, that in serving one another, we might build the kingdom of God among us here and now, one act of love at a time. May the Christ in you be fully present; so that even 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 love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude *Marcia Yernberg*

Little Prairie UMC UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am
Tuesdays, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, at L&M
9-10:30 am James Gang coffee shop with Pastor Penny
Saturdays 9-11 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

Sun. Nov. 29, 9:30 am Hanging of the Greens service Advent begins
7:00 pm Cluster Charge Conference at Little Prairie
Thurs. Dec 24, 4:00 pm Candle light Christmas Eve Service
See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org.

Website **Online Giving**