

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said: The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight." John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."



December 7, 2025 9:00 am Second Sunday of Advent

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING

SONG OF BEGINNING

Come to the Light

LIGHTING OUR SECOND ADVENT CANDLE – PEACE

Ephesians 2:13-16

Unison Prayer: Eternal God, throughout the ages you have been peace for your people. We ask that by your presence you would transform our lives. Make of us vessels of your peace. Give purpose and spirit to our deeds so that all may know life that is abundant, safe and joy-filled; life that abides in you. We pray remembering Jesus the Christ, the One who is our peace. Amen

SUNG RESPONSE *In This Time of Waiting* Words on the
Screens

*In this time of waiting we will sing of peace. Peace in Jesus: Savior, Prince of Peace. In our expectation we will sing of
peace; hearts of longing. We will sing of peace.*

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

Children Pre-K through 5th grade may go to Children's Church. Pre-K through 2nd grade go to the Nursery and 3rd through 5th grade go to classroom E-8.

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty* No. 213
 Gates, vs. 1-2 & 4 Red Hymnal

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming*

Advent Theme: *Love Came Down*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON *Preparing the Way of Peace*

*HYMN *O Morning Star, How Fair* No. 247
 and Bright, vs. 1 & 3 Red Hymnal

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will receive Communion at the front of the sanctuary. Once the meal has been blessed, you will be invited to come forward. You may put your hand out and a piece of bread will be given to you. You may then take a small cup from the tray. You may eat and drink as you receive the elements. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station. Bowls are at the sides of the sanctuary to collect the empty cups.

As you return to your seat, if you would like anointing with oil, you may stop to the organ side of the sanctuary where the pastor will be standing. Oil will be placed on your forehead in the sign of the cross and a prayer shared with you. Anointing is a way of opening yourself to God for a particular place in your own life or on behalf of someone else.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Doxology No. 94 Red Hymnal

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*CLOSING BLESSING

*SUNG RESPONSE

*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel, vs. 2*

No. 211
Red Hymnal

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor
Amanda Hinthorn, Dir. of Community Engagement,
Worship Assistant
Amanda Johnson Family, Advent Readers
Daniel Taylor, Dir. of Family Ministry, Children's Time
Chancel Choir, Music; Stephanie Klein, Director;
Marilyn Silvester, Piano
Sue Lundeen, Organist

INVITATIONS TO ACTION

If you are not already receiving our Monday Devotional Word of the Week or our weekly Thursday email that outlines what is happening in the life of this faith community please reach out to the church office so we can get you on this email list at office@sunprairieumc.org or 837-5554.

Children's Christmas Program-- A Child Shall Lead

On December 21st during worship be prepared to join our children in a surprising journey to the stables of Bethlehem, where A Child Shall Lead us from the miracle of Christ unto the world to the miracle of Christ who lives on in the hearts and commitment of each and everyone of us. This "Christmas in a Bag" program will be full of surprises, as all who attend worship may have the chance to be invited in as part of the story. Arrive like any other Sunday, but be prepared because you may just be randomly handed a bag with a role and a costume. When the Children's moment starts, get suited up and listen for your cue to come up to the stable scene as the story unfolds. With poetry and narration brought to life by our confirmation volunteers, this is sure to be a moment to remember.

Live Nativity December 13th from 5:30-7 pm

Journey with Mary and Joseph to the stable in Bethlehem and witness the miracle of The First Christmas. Drive through with a cup of hot chocolate and look at scenes vividly brought to life with live animals and members of the Sun Prairie United Methodist Church.