

Littleton United Methodist Church
May 3, 2009
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Service of Word and Table

Prelude "Partita on 'The Lord's My Shepherd' " YOUNG
During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests please sign the attendance pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Alleluia, Alleluia (verses 1&2)* Page 162

+Greeting

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: O come, let us worship the Good Shepherd, for we are the sheep of his fold.

People: **He gives us food from green pastures, he gives us water from pure fountains.**

Pastor: He plants our feet on safe paths, he leads us through dark valleys.

People: **He protects us with his rod, he supports us with his staff.**

Pastor: He grants us asylum from our enemies, he offers us refuge with the righteous

People: **O come, let us worship the Good Shepherd, for we are the sheep of his fold.**

+Entrance Hymn #308 *Thine Be the Glory* JUDAS MACCABEUS

Prayer of the Day

Good Shepherd, we meet in your name, confident that we are known and loved by you. Here we draw close to one another and to you, expecting to be empowered by fresh insights to live as your people. We want to care for one another in life-giving ways. We seek to reach out to those who deny you or suspect us. Help us grow in love that is genuine in its caring and self-sacrifice. We embrace the wholeness you offer and dare to risk acceptance of a healing role for ourselves and this faith community. Equip us for service beyond this hour of meeting. AMEN.

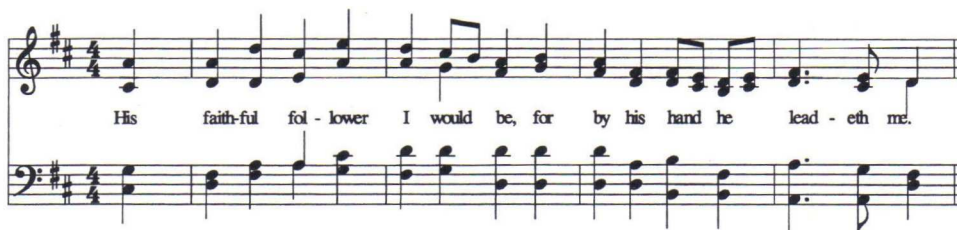
The First Reading *Acts 4:5-12* Mike Herman, Lay Reader

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are

asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter *Psalm 23*



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.
**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. R**

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. R**

The Second Reading *1 John 3:16-24*

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love

one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Tender Shepherd

MARTIN

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Good Shepherd"

Rev. Rob Licht

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Holy Shepherd, we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world. We have ventured into dead-end streets that looked more inviting than the narrow ways marked out by the signposts of your love. We have trusted other voices and turned away from your truth. We have accepted your gifts without acknowledgement. We have failed to use our overflowing cups to fill the cups of sisters and brother who need what we could offer. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to your fold. AMEN.

A Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet Sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory

Sheep May Safely Graze

BACH

A special note to our guests: The ministries and work of our church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled to make a contribution. Please accept this time of worship as our gift to you. We hope that it has been meaningful and that you will worship with us again.

+The Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Hymn #138

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

The Great Thanksgiving (Alternate Musical Setting)

Laminated Sheet

The Lord's Prayer

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+Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Unite us into the one flock of your shepherd. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

+Closing Hymn # 381

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Alive

PARKS

Alive! Alive! Jesus Is Alive!
No greater affirmation could a mortal tongue impart;
Alive! Alive! Jesus Is Alive!
Triumphant over sin and death
He lives within my heart!

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice And Sing

JOHNSON

+The congregation will stand as you are able

*** Communion rail offerings are designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*

*** Printed copies of the sermon are available after the service in each narthex.*

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 50



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 Sunday school
Noon - Lunch Bunch
4:00 PM El Salvador presentation
- Monday: 11:15 AM Trustees meeting
1:30 PM Mary Lucy Self Circle
5:00 PM Events Team meeting
6:30 PM Administrative Council (meal, then meeting)
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible Study
7:30 PM Choir practice
- Friday: 9:00 AM Food Delivery
Pastor Rob will be away through May 15th
- Saturday: 7:00 AM Christian Men at Work at Weaver's Chapel

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$1,075.00

Our Mission Statement

Littleton United Methodist Church strives to provide all-inclusive worship of God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual growth.

We are to minister in Christ's name to the needy, the sick, the dying, the unchurched, and to each other.

We are to be active Christians, spreading the Good News.

We are to strive to witness for Jesus in our daily lives, in our community and throughout the world.



Our Service

Serving in Worship:

Choir Director / Organist: Tom Parker
Organist emeritus: Trudi May
Acolyte: Martha Sherman
Greeters: Jill Russo (west)
Lisa Hardy (east)
Ushers: Lee Reinhardt (west)
Sherm Merchant (west)
Matt Johnston (east)
Nursery: Loretta Woodburn
Julie Johnston
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel
Communion Stewards:
Dick & Irene O'Sullivan

2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Administrative Council: Richard Sherman
Congregational Care: Jean Houston
Shepherding: Elizabeth Solovieff
Discipleship: Helen Burtchell
Age Level: TBA
Outreach: Helen Burtchell
Missions: Richard Sherman
Finance: Mike Herman
Pastor-Parish: Sherman Merchant
Lay Leadership: Rob Licht
Trustees: Shirley Anschutz
Kitchen: Marie Fields
Membership: Marj Prescott
Scholarship: Marvin Newsom III
Memorials: Matt Johnston
Newsletter: Susan Merchant
Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Jarvis

Serving in our Church, Community and World

If you are interested in knowing more about our mission projects, our church, or becoming a member, please call Pastor Rob at 252 586-5385.

There will be a **Lunch Bunch** at noon today in our fellowship hall. Marie & gang will be inaugurating their new grill with a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs.

This evening at 4:00 PM, Kristy Barnes (who has traveled to El Salvador 4 times with our mission team) will be giving a **talk about the need for educational supplies for the children in El Salvador.**

The **Trustees** will meet at 11:15 on Monday at Casa Mia's Restaurant.

The **Mary Lucy Self Circle** will meet at 1:30 PM on Monday in the board room.

The **Events Team** will meet at 5:00 PM on Monday, prior to the Administrative Council meeting.

The **Administrative Council** will meet on Monday for dinner at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 7:00.

Pastor Rob will be away from May 8th through May 15th for a Homecoming Celebration.

Next Sunday (May 10th) is **Mother's Day** and **U.M.W. Sunday.**

Congratulations to Josh Dillard, one of only 3 seniors to make "A" Honor Roll at Halifax Academy.