

Littleton United Methodist Church
May 10, 2009
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word

Prelude *Intrada* GRAUPNER
During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements Helen Burtchell
Members and guests please sign the friendship pad located at the end of the pew.

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

+Greeting Marie Fields

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

People: **Amen.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord, for He is the Maker of heaven and earth.

People: **He will not let our feet slip, He watches over us without slumbering.**

Leader: He is our shade, He allows no harm to us from the sun by day nor by the moon by night.

People: **He keeps us from harm, He watches over our lives.**

Leader: He watches over our coming and going both now and forevermore.

People: **O come, let us worship the Lord, for He is the Maker of heaven and earth.**

+Entrance Hymn #384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

Prayer of the Day Martha Hayes

God you are the one that created all. You gave us mothers and fathers to raise us up in your faith. Some of us failed to follow, some succeeded, but God you love us anyway. Mothers and dads pray for their children, but you will never fail them. You will always be there to hold, comfort and support parents through it all. We ask that your love and support be there for all generations to come. The world needs your help, and our children need it more that ever. Help us all to be that light that shows the way to you. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

The First Reading *Acts 8:26-40* Diana Parham, Lay Reader

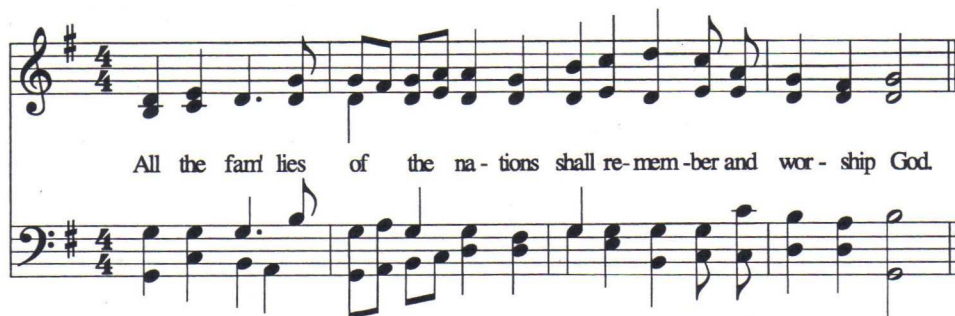
Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and

sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

Psalter

Psalm 22:25-31



From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.
 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
 All the ends of the earth shall remember
 and turn to the Lord;
And all the families of the nations
shall worship before the Lord.
 For dominion belongs to the Lord
 who rules over the nations.
All who sleep in the earth
shall bow down to the Lord.
 All who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord,
 and I shall live for God.
Posterity shall serve the Lord;
 each generation shall tell of the Lord,
 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.
Surely the Lord has done it

R

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

Anthem

Wonderful Words of Life

MARTIN

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-10

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

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

Sermon

Pat Zeismann

+Hymn #432

Jesu, Jesu

CHEREONI

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Susan Merchant

Forgive us, O God, for not loving one another the way we should. We are harsh when we should be gentle. Our attention to the needs of the poor is less than You desire. We see differences rather than similarities. We lack the courage to stand up for those who need us. O God, help us walk with You to become all we are created to be. AMEN.

Words of Pardon

Leader: 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

We Know That Christ is Raised and Dies No More

arr. Page

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

+The Prayer of Dedication

Installation of U.M.W. Officers

Regina Dickens, District Officer

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

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+Closing Hymn #395

Take Time to Be Holy

HOLINESS

+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

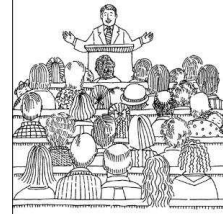
O Blessed Day of Motherhood

DEPEW

+The congregation will stand as you are able

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 53
Sunday school: 13



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
No Sunday School today!
- Monday: 10:00 AM Beckham Ransom Circle meeting at Lois Weaver's Home
- Wednesday: *Bible Study cancelled*
7:30 PM Choir practice
- Friday: 9:00 AM Work day at parsonage
2:00 PM Warren Hills Nursing Home birthday party
- Saturday: 10:00 AM UMW meeting in board room

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$1,280.00

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: Kay Newsom (west)
Barbara Reinhardt (west)
Marj Prescott (east)
Ushers: Susannah Sherman (west)
Loretta Woodburn (east)
Nursery: Ed Angel
Mike Herman
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel

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.

Pastor Rob is away for a Homecoming Celebration. He will return on Friday.

There will be **no Sunday School today**.

Last Sunday, Kristy Barnes, a teenager who has traveled to El Salvador twice with our mission team, gave a presentation about a project she has started to provide 200 book bags filled with school supplies for children in El Salvador. If you would like to contribute to this project, please make your check payable to LUMC with "**Missions - El Salvador book bags**" in the memo.

The **Beckham Ransom Circle** will meet at 10:00 AM on Monday at Lois Weaver's home.

Our Wednesday evening **Bible study is cancelled** this week.

The date for the **Work Day at the parsonage** has been changed to this Friday. The trustees are looking for as many volunteers as possible to help spruce up around the outside of the parsonage. We will be starting at 9:00 AM. Remember your rakes, shovels, garden gloves, etc.

The **UMW** will be meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday in the board room.