

**Littleton United Methodist Church**  
**May 24, 2009**  
**The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord**  
**Service of the Word**

**Prelude** *Alleluia* MOZART  
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 friendship pad located at the end of the pew.

**+Introit** *Surely the Presence of the Lord* Page 328

**+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: Arise, O Lord, in your strength

People: **We will praise you for your glory!**

Pastor: You have raised the weakness of our flesh. Heal us from our sins, and restore to us the full dignity of life.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Pastor: May our faith lead us to the Father as we follow the road you trod.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Pastor: You have promised to draw all people to yourself; let not one of us be separate from your body.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Pastor: You are true God and you will be our judge, so lead us to contemplate your tender mercy.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

**+Entrance Hymn #312** *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* LLANFAIR

**Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, whose word has come to us through the law of Moses, in the poetry of the psalms, and in the passion of the prophets, speak to us again through the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, who calls us as witnesses in our own times and places. May we know your blessing and empowerment, not for our own satisfaction but that we might share the good news with confidence and joy. AMEN.**

**The First Reading** *Acts 1:1-11* Susannah Sherman, Lay Reader

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had cho-

sen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

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

**Psalter**

*Psalm 47*



Clap your hands, all peoples!  
**Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**  
 For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,  
**a great Ruler over all the earth,**  
 who subdued peoples under us,  
 and nations under our feet,  
**who chose our heritage for us,**  
**the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

**R**

God has gone up with a shout,  
**The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**  
 Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
**Sing praises to our Ruler, sing praises!**  
 For God is the Ruler of all the earth;  
**sing praises with a psalm!**  
 God reigns over the nations;  
**God sits on his holy throne.**  
 The princes of the people gather  
 as the people of the God of Abraham.  
**For the shields of the earth belong to God,**

who is highly exalted!

R

**The Second Reading**

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

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

**Anthem**

*Thou Art Gone Up On High*

HANDEL  
Greg Solovieff, Soloist

Thou art gone up on high, Thou art gone up on high,  
Thou hast led captivity captive, Thou hast led captivity captive,  
and received gifts for men; yea, even for Thine enemies, yea,  
even for Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them,  
that the Lord God might dwell among them.

**+Gospel Acclamation #2043**

*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

**+The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 24:44-53*

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

**Sermon**

*"Displaced and Replaced"*

Rev. Rob Licht

**+Hymn #163**

*Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know*

HENDON

**+The Apostles' Creed**

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**Prayer of Confession**

O God, it is hard for us to wait for anything. We want instant answers and immediate gratification of our desires. We are more greedy than grateful. We forget the amazing riches of your gifts to us and only want more. We do not take time simply to enjoy being in your presence, singing your praises, delighting in your love. Forgive us for our arrogant, selfish pride and our neglect of values and relationships that would supply all we really need. 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**

*We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend*

HERMAN

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**

**The Prayers**

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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**+Closing Hymn #157**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

LUKE STREET

**+Dismissal with Blessing**

**+Congregational Response**

*Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

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**+Taking God's Light Into The World**

**+Chiming of the Trinity**

**+Postlude**

*Give Praise to God*

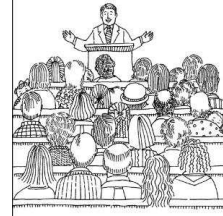
HANDEL

*+The congregation will stand as you are able*

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

## Our Presence

Attendance last week  
Worship service: 53  
Sunday school: 9



Today: 8:45 AM Early Casual Service  
10:00 Traditional Worship Service

Monday: MEMORIAL DAY - Office closed

Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible study  
7:30 PM Choir practice

Sunday (5/31): Fifth Sunday Brunch following worship service



## Our Gifts

Offerings last week: \$3,310.75

The altar flowers, given to the glory of God,  
are in memory of our fallen  
and in honor of our present military personnel.

## 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: Anna Brown (west)  
Loretta Woodburn (east)  
Ushers: Sherman Merchant (west)  
Lee Reinhardt (west)  
Matt Johnston (east)  
Nursery: Susan Merchant  
Loretta Woodburn  
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.*

**MEMORIAL DAY:** We would like to wish everyone a happy Memorial Day and invite you to remember those persons, who died, while in service to the nation. In particular, we call to mind **Peter Spruill** (First World War) and **Horace Palmer** (Second World War) who were members of this parish. May perpetual light shine upon them. The church office will be closed on Monday in observance of the holiday.

Our summer worship schedule has started. Throughout the summer, **Early / Casual Service will begin at 8:45 AM** and as always our **Traditional Service will begin at 10:00 AM.**

Please join us in the Chapel for our **5th Sunday Fellowship brunch** next Sunday, immediately following our worship service. This is a special opportunity to say good-bye and recognize, honor, and thank **Josh Hardy's** for his accomplishment in being accepted to West Point, and to thank him for serving our country.