

Littleton United Methodist Church
June 14, 2009
The Second Sunday After Pentecost
Service of the Word

Prelude *Come, Holy Ghost, Our Lord and God* J.S. BACH
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: Some boast of tanks and guns, and put their trust in planes and missiles.

People: **Fear not! They who trust in arms will collapse and fall. The Lord does wondrous things!**

Pastor: Others boast of justice and mercy, and put their trust in the Lord their God.

People: **Take heart! They who trust in God will arise and stand tall. The Lord does wondrous things!**

Pastor: Therefore, we will not fear, though our rulers betray us;

People: **We will shout for joy, for the Lord is God. Come, let us bless the Lord our God, who alone does wondrous things.**

+Entrance Hymn #539 *O Spirit of the Living God* FOREST GREEN

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, whose works are greater than our wildest imagination and most sophisticated study, plant the seed of your Word among us today, and let each of us welcome the good news you would plant within us. Inspire in us deeper thinking and more open receptiveness. May our lives be the fertile ground in which your love bursts into life to nourish all whom we meet, in Jesus' name. AMEN.

The First Reading *1 Samuel 15:24-16:13* Greg Solovieff, Lay Reader

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD." But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!" As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you. He who

is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind." Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God." So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD. Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites." Agag came to him confidently, thinking, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women." And Samuel put Agag to death before the LORD at Gilgal. Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeath of Saul. Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel. The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

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

Psalter

Psalm 20



May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble,
 the name of the God of Jacob defend you.
From God's holy place may you receive help;
may God strengthen you out of Zion.
 May God remember all your offerings

and accept your burns sacrifice;
**Grant you your heart's desire
and prosper all your plans.** *R*

We will shout for joy at your victory
**and triumph in the name of our God;
may the Lord grant all your requests.**
Now I know that the Lord give victory to the anointed one;
out of God's holy heaven will come an answer;
the right hand of the Lord works victorious strength.
**Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.**
They collapse and fall down,
but we will arise and stand upright.
**O Lord, give victory to the king
and answer us when we call.** *R*

The Second Reading *2 Corinthians 5:6-17*

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

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

Anthem *Come Holy Ghost* GOEMANNE

+Gospel Acclamation #2043 *Alleluia* CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel *Mark 4:26-34*

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to

hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Not By Sight”

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn (insert)

O Holy Spirit, By Whose Breath

+The Apostles’ Creed

Page 881

Prayer of Confession

God of all truth, who can stand before you? We judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts. We see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within. We measure importance by paychecks, but you find value among those we deem lowly and insignificant. You offer us the deep and profound joy of living in your realm. We forget your promises and turn to pursuits that separate us from you and destroy community. We seek forgiveness and a new direction for our lives. 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

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

arr. Parker

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

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #2238

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Sent Out in Jesus’ Name

Page 2184

+Taking God’s Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

God Of Our Fathers

HUGHES

+The congregation will stand as you are able

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 54



- Today: 8:45 AM Early Casual Service
10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- Monday: 1:00 PM Blanket Bee / Sewing Circle
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible Study
No choir practice this week
- Friday: 2:00 PM Warren Hills Nursing Home Birthday Party
- Saturday: 10:00 AM UMW Meeting
Newsletter Deadline!
- Sunday (6/21): 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper at Merchant's home

Our Gifts



The flowers today were given
In honor of
Mike & Kay Herman's 37th Anniversary

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: Jean Houston (west)
Martha Hayes (east)
Ushers: Al Prescott (west)
Lee Reinhardt (west)
Ed Angel (east)
Nursery: Corinne Replogle
Lisa Hardy
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.

Today we **welcome Rev. Faye Ethridge as our guest soloist.** Faye is a retired United Methodist Minister. She pastored several UM congregations in the Rocky Mount and Gaston areas. She received her Master of Arts degree in church music from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and attended Duke Divinity School. Before entering the ministry, Faye taught private piano and voice lessons, served as music director and organist for several churches in the Rocky Mount area, and taught classroom music at Rocky Mount Academy. She lives in Battleboro with her husband Buddy. Faye, thank you for sharing your gift of music with us today.

The **Blanket Bee / Sewing Group** will meet on Monday afternoon at 1:00 in the fellowship hall. Please contact Margie Drescher with any questions.

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

Next Sunday evening (6/21) at 6:00 PM, there will be a **Fellowship Supper** at the home of Sherm & Susan Merchant. Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish to pass.

*****Note—the side door will be locked during the worship service.**