

Littleton United Methodist Church
August 23, 2009
The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of the Word

Prelude *Christ for the World We Sing* ITALIAN HYMN
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 *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* Page 658

+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: Let us awaken from the deep night of the soul,

People: **For God is dawning on the world like morning light,**

Pastor: Like the sun dancing forth on a cloudless morning.

People: **Let us turn to the east with joy upon our lips. May God's face shine upon us, and give us peace.**

+Entrance Hymn #88 *Maker, in Whom We Live* DIADEMATA

Prayer of the Day

Holy One of God, sent to live among us in faithfulness to God's loving intention for all humanity, lead our journey toward the truth that is eternal. Be to us the bread of life, the source of trust, a guard against misplaced loyalties and false assumptions, that we may live in harmony with all God's creation and relate to our brothers and sisters in ways that are pleasing to our Creator. AMEN.

The First Reading *1 Kings 8:1,6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43* Lois Weaver, Lay Reader

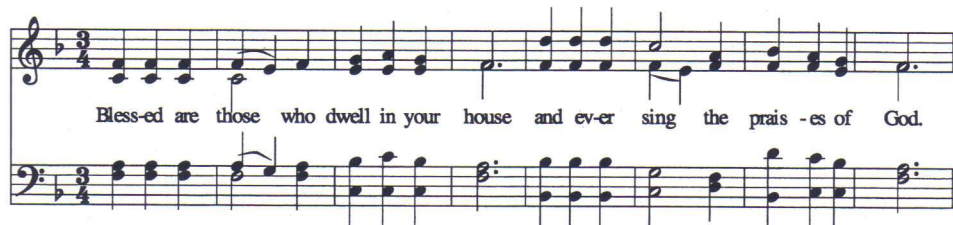
Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David. The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple. Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven and said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today. "Now LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the

promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me as you have done.' And now, O God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true. "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

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

Psalter

Psalm 84



How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O Lord of hosts!

**My soul longs, indeed it faints
 for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and flesh sing for joy
 to the living God.**

O Lord of hosts, my Ruler and my God,
 at your altars even the sparrow finds a home,
 and the swallow a nest for herself,
 where she may lay her young.

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
 ever singing your praise!**

R

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
 in whose heart are the highway of Zion.

**As they go through the valley of tears,
 they make it a place of springs;
 the early rain also covers it with pools.**

They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!**
**Behold our shield, O God;
look upon the face of your anointed!** *R*

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**
For the Lord God is a sun and shield,
and bestows favor and honor.
**No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.**
**O Lord of hosts,
blessed are those who trust in you!** *R*

The Second Reading *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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

Anthem *Creation Will Be at Peace*

+Gospel Acclamation #2043 *Alleluia* *CELTIC ALLELUIA*

+The Holy Gospel *John 6:56-69*

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

Sermon *"Cloud, Glory and Ark"* *Rev. Rob Licht*

+Hymn #2042

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

MERLE'S TUNE

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Alert us now, Eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been busy with so many things that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power, and draw us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. 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

Notturmo

BORODIN

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 #95

OLD 100th

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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+Closing Hymn #514

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

WEBB

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Shalom to You

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+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

Toccato

+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: 60



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

Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible Study

Sunday (8/30): 5th Sunday Brunch following the worship service

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$ 1,459.00
Offerings 08/09/2009: \$ 2,765.00

The flowers today were given
by Maj & Julie Johnston
in memory of Ed & Heidi Johnston.

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: Susan Merchant (west)
Loretta Woodburn (east)
Ushers: Sherman Merchant (west)
Bob Workman (west)
Matt Johnston (east)
Nursery: as needed
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.

Thank you Trudi for stepping back in as choir director/organist for today!

Our Wednesday evening **Bible Study** classes have resumed. We meet at 6:00 each Wednesday in the board room. This week's lesson will be on the book of Hebrews.

Next Sunday (8/30) will be "**new member Sunday**" and there will be a "**5th Sunday Brunch**" in the chapel immediately following the worship service.

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