

Littleton United Methodist Church
August 30, 2009
The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of the Word

Prelude *Trumpet Prelude* GURLITT
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: The Lord has dominion from sea to sea, from here to the ends of the earth.

People: **The scepter of equity is in the Lord's hand,**

Pastor: As the Lord rides forth to defend the truth and to destroy all falsehood.

People: **The hand of the Lord reaches out to lift up the needy and feed the hungry.**

Pastor: Therefore, with joy and gladness let us come into the presence of the Lord our God-

People: **And praise the name of the Lord with words of our lips and deeds of our lives!**

+Entrance Hymn #553 *And Are We Yet Alive* DENNIS

Prayer of the Day

God of all truth, whose reality is far beyond the religion we profess, and whose ways are broader than our flawed human precepts, we would honor you with our lips and our lives, worshipping you above all else in life and welcoming your transforming presence within us, that we might become doers of the Word who offer healing to the world. AMEN.

The First Reading *Song of Solomon 2:8-13* Gail Workman, Lay Reader

Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice. My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one,

come with me."

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

Psalter

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven, Praise the ever-lasting King!

My heart overflows with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

You are the fairest of men;
grace flows from your lips,
because God has blessed you forever.

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever,
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your reign;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Therefore, God, your God, has anointed you
With the oil of gladness above your companions.

All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces, stringed instruments make you glad.

Daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor,
on your right hand stands the queen,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

R

The Second Reading

James 1:17-27

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he de-

ceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

Anthem *You Raised Me Up* Helen Burtchell, soloist

+Gospel Acclamation #2043 *Alleluia* CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.' Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

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

Sermon *"With Dirty Hands"* Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #549 *Where Charity and Love Prevail* ST. PETER

The Reception of New Members

Reception Into the United Methodist Church Page 38
Reception Into the Local Congregation Page 38
Commendation and Welcome Page 38

+The Apostles' Creed Page 881

Prayer of Confession

O God, we admit that all is not well with us. We are easily angered and slow to forgive. We speak without listening and pretend to listen without really hearing. Our tongues become weapons rather than instruments of healing. We are more critical than helpful toward the poor in our midst. Hidden in our hearts are the attitudes that

produce avarice, deceit, and violation of our promises to you and to one another. Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness and learn to love ourselves as you want us to be, through Jesus Christ. **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

Morning Prayer

DeGEORGE

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

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #261

Lord of the Dance

LORD OF THE DANCE

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Shalom to You

Page 666

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

In Peace and Joy I Go My Way

BRAHMS

+The congregation will stand as you are able

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

We welcome into Church membership, this morning, **Bruce and Maryann Fowler.**
Bruce and Maryann come to us by "Letter of Transfer" from
Hebron Presbyterian Church in Manakin-Sabot, VA.

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 43



Today: 8:45 AM Early Casual Service
10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
5th Sunday Brunch following the worship service
Finance committee in Board room after brunch

Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible Study
7:30 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 9:00 AM Food Delivery

Saturday: 8:00 - 10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast in our fellowship hall
10:00 AM Littleton Festival

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$ 2,053.00

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: Betsy Medlin (east)
Loretta Woodburn (west)
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.

There will be a **"5th Sunday Brunch"** immediately following the worship service in the chapel. Please stay for a delicious meal and join us in welcoming our new members, Bruce and Maryann Fowler.

Following the brunch, the **Finance Committee** will meet in the Board room.

Weekly choir practices will resume this Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

This Saturday, before the Littleton Festival, there will be a **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** in our fellowship hall from 8 - 10am. The cost is \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. All profits will benefit the church's general fund.

Coming soon:

September 11 at 7:00 pm - **Family Movie Night** "The Tale of Despereaux"
September 12 at 7:00am - **Christian Men at Work** in our fellowship hall
September 20 at 5:30 pm - **Fellowship Supper** at our fellowship hall
followed by a presentation from the Finance Committee.

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