

Littleton United Methodist Church
September 6, 2009
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of Word and Table

Prelude *Agnus Dei* BIZET
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 attendance pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Come! Come! Everybody Worship* Page 2271

+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: We are gathered to celebrate life's great gifts-

People: **To worship the Lord who is the source of them all:**

Pastor: That the ears of us deaf may be opened-

People: **To hear the words of truth and beauty;**

Pastor: That the tongues of us mute may be loosed-

People: **To speak the words of love and duty.**

Pastor: The Lord seeks us.

People: **Come, let us seek the Lord.**

+Entrance Hymn #581 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* BEACH SPRING

Prayer of the Day

Inclusive God, ever available to all who truly seek you, come to us now through all we read and speak, that the messages your people hear may become your word to us, a word that transforms, makes whole, and unites us in mutual learning and service, for the sake of all your children. AMEN.

The First Reading *Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23* Lay Reader

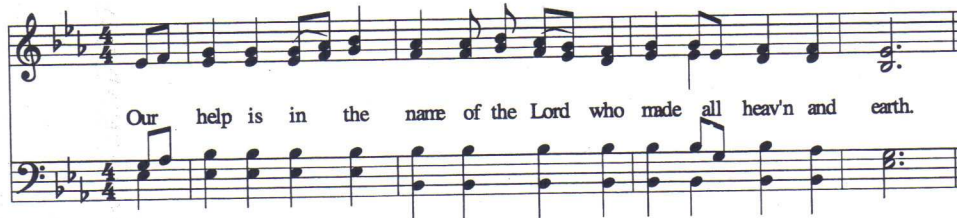
A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all. He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed. A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 125



Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion
which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

**The hills stand about Jerusalem;
so does the Lord stand round about the chosen people,
from this time forth forevermore.**

The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land
allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put
their hands to evil.

**Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good
and to those who are true of heart.**

**As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers
but peace be upon Israel**

R

The Second Reading

James 2:1-17

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment! What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

+Hymn #454

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Gone to the Dogs"

Rev. Rob Licht

Anthem

In Remembrance of Me

RED

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us and honor those we deem to be important. We dishonor the poor, write off those with whom we disagree, excuse our self-serving behavior, and sow injustice on every hand. It is so much easier to give advice than to do good. We would rather point fingers at others who are unfair than to give up our own advantages. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and for depth of faith that will make a difference in us and in our world. 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*Eucahristia*

CASSLER

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 Great Thanksgiving (Alternate Musical Setting)

Laminated Sheet

The Lord's Prayer

Page 895

+Giving of the Bread and Cup**Prayer After Communion**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. May our good works be a sign of our faith. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

+Closing Hymn #634*Now Let Us from This Table Rise*

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

+Dismissal with Blessing**+Congregational Response***The Trees of the Field*

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+Taking God's Light Into The World**+Chiming of the Trinity****+Postlude***Symphony I*

BOYCE

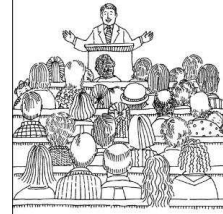
+The congregation will stand as you are able

*** Communion rail offerings are designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*

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

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 51



- Today: 8:45 AM Early Casual Service
10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- Monday: Office closed—Labor Day
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM Mary Lucy Self Circle
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible Study
7:30 PM Choir Practice
- Friday: 9:00 AM Food Delivery
10:00 AM - Noon: Littleton ACTS Food Pantry
7:00 PM Family Movie Night
- Saturday: 7:00 AM Christian Men at Work in our fellowship hall

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 (east)
Kay Newsom (west)
Ushers: Al Prescott (west)
Bob Workman (west)
Ed Angel (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 to everyone who helped with the Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale yesterday.

Tomorrow the **church office will be closed** for Labor Day.

The **Mary Lucy Self Circle** will meet in the Board Room on Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

The **Littleton ACTS Food Pantry** will be open from 10-12 on Friday. The planned schedule for the Food Pantry is the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Liz Solovieff, Kaye Herman, or Pastor Rob.

Our monthly **Family Movie Nights** are starting back up for the school year. The first movie of the season will be this Friday at 7:00 pm in our fellowship hall. This month's movie is "The Tale of Despereaux".

This Saturday at 7:00 am, **Christian Men at Work** will meet in our fellowship hall for breakfast and a talk by Jack Underwood about the John 3:16 Center.

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