

Littleton United Methodist Church
September 13, 2009
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of the Word

Prelude *Prelude on Come Thou Fount* YOUNG
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 *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: In the beginning God said, "Let us create humanity in our own image." So God created humanity, male and female, God created them.

People: **O come, let us praise the Lord our God; let us worship the Lord our Creator.**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and all who received the Word were given power to become the children of God.

People: **O come, let us praise the Lord our God; let us worship the Lord, our Redeemer.**

Pastor: Jesus said, "The Holy Spirit will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said."

People: **O come, let us praise the Lord our God; let us worship the Lord, our Teacher.**

Pastor: O come, let us worship the Lord our God-

People: **Our Creator, Our Redeemer, Our Teacher.**

+Entrance Hymn #159 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

Prayer of the Day

Reigning God, whom we have glimpsed in creation and in the life of one who shared our common lot, help us to acknowledge the Messiah, not in empty words, but in self-emptying service that risks life for the sake of love. May we come to be so attuned to your precepts that the song of our hearts becomes a contagious attraction, transforming the groups of which we are apart. AMEN.

The First Reading *Proverbs 1:20-33* Marie Fields, Lay Reader

Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: "How long will you simple

ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you. But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you- when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

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

Psalter

Psalm 19



The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In them God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

R

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;

**The testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;**

the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure,

enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.**
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

R

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
**But who can understand one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
Also keep your servant from the insolent;
let them not have dominion over me!
**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**
**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

R

The Second Reading

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

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

Anthem

Nearer My God to Thee

COATES

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

Mark 8:27-38

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

Sermon

“Who Are You?”

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #2137

Would I Have Answered When You Called

KINGSFOLD

+The Apostles' Creed

Page 881

Prayer of Confession

God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. We make light of your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained. Our waywardness is destroying us. Our complacency before evil, within us and all around, threatens life itself. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. 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

Andante In F

BEETHOVEN

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 #568

Christ for the World We Sing

ITALIAN HYMN

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

The Trees of the Field

Page 2279

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

Allegro

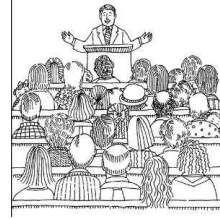
LATZELBERGER

+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: 10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
11:30 Sunday School
- Monday: 10:00 AM Beckham-Ransom Circle at Susan Merchant's home
7:00 PM Administrative Council meeting
- Tuesday: Bishop's Day Apart—Rob out of office
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible Study
7:30 PM Choir Practice
- Friday: 2:00 PM Warren Hills Nursing Home Birthday Party
- Saturday: 10:00 AM UMW meeting in board room
- Sunday (9/20) 5:30 PM Fellowship Supper & Finance committee presentation
Charge Conference materials due!



Our Gifts

Offerings 8/30/09: \$ 848.00

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: Jean Houston (east)
Loretta Woodburn (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.

The **Beckham-Ransom Circle** will meet at Susan Merchant's house at 10:00 am on Monday.

The **Administrative Council** will meet at 7:00 pm on Monday in the board room.

Pastor Rob will be out of the office on Tuesday.

The monthly **Warren Hills Nursing Home birthday party** is this Friday at 2:00 pm.

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

Next Sunday (9/20), there will be a **Fellowship Supper** in the fellowship hall, followed by a presentation by the Finance Committee. Please bring a dish to pass.

Remember, Charge Conference materials are due next Sunday!

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