

Littleton United Methodist Church
September 27, 2009
The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of the Word

Prelude

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

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+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: All around the world people gather in the name of Christ. Many of them believe as we do, yet they neglect the work for which we are anointed.

People: **They who are not for us are against us.**

Pastor: All around the world people gather in the name of Christ. Some of them do not believe as we do, yet they do the work for which we were anointed.

People: **They who are not against us are for us.**

Pastor: We are called not to judge our neighbors, but to witness to our God.

People: **O come, let us praise the Lord together.**

+Entrance Hymn #126

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Prayer of the Day

Reigning God, whose dominion is over all worlds, and whose witnesses come from many places and points of view, expand our knowledge of your truth and our appreciation of diversity so we may find common ground with others rather than being stumbling blocks in their way. Show us how to be at peace with one another and faithful to you. AMEN.

The First Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Matt Johnston, Lay Reader

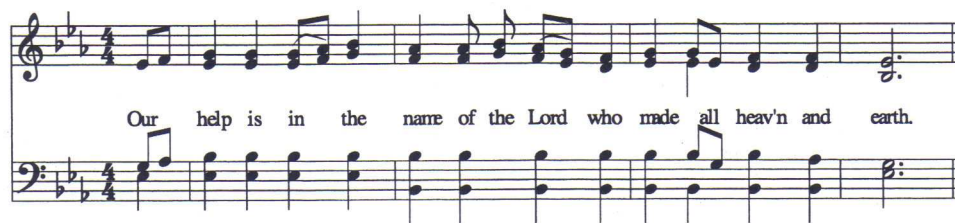
So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther, and as they were drinking wine on that second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king." King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Ha-

man." Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman's house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king." The king said, "Hang him on it!" So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided. Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

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

Psalter

Psalm 124



Our help is in the name of the Lord who made all heav'n and earth.

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side-
let Israel now say-
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when foes rose up against us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us:
then the raging waters
would have gone over us.
Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!
We have escaped as a bird
From the snare of the fowlers:
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!
Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

R

The Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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

Anthem

Our Father

DENNIS

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

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

Sermon

"Holy Boldness"

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #2146

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

SPARROW

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

All powerful God, we confess our devious ways. Even when prayers for others are on our lips, we seek ways to secure our own advantages. We put our trust in things we can accumulate rather than aligning ourselves with your will and way. Our behavior

creates enemies and multiplies divisions among your people. Then we want you on our side against those who are different from us. We confuse our preferences with your intentions. O God, we need healing, but we are afraid to lose the illusions of control that are so much apart of us. We fear the very changes that would give us integrity. Help us, gracious God. 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

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 #670

Go Forth for God

GENEVA

+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

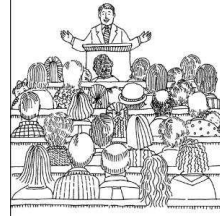
+Postlude

+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: 47



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:30 AM Sunday school

Wednesday: 7:30 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 9:00 AM Food delivery
7:00 PM Family Movie Night

Our Gifts



The flowers today were given
by Barbara & Lee Reinhardt
to the Glory of God.

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: Frances Howell (east)
 Connie Henry (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.

We welcome **Janet Weaver** as our guest flutist today.

Our **Sunday School** classes will resume today at 11:30.

Our monthly **Family Movie Night** will be this Friday at 7:00 PM in our fellowship hall. This month's movie will be Disney's recent release "WALL-E".

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