

**Littleton United Methodist Church**  
**November 8, 2009**  
**The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Service of the Word**

**Prelude** *Holy Ground* DAVIS  
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** *Majesty, Worship His Majesty* Page 176

**+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: Heaven walks upon the earth! Where once there was only a cup of meal,

People: **A loaf is broken, and hunger is filled.**

Pastor: Heaven walks upon the earth! Where once there was only a drop of water,

People: **A chalice is lifted, and thirst is slaked.**

Pastor: Let us praise the Lord as long as we live. Let us praise our God while we have being.

People: **For our last two coins shall make a treasure and our poverty of spirit shall become God's wealth!**

**+Entrance Hymn #384** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

**Prayer of the Day**

**Gracious God, whose favor rests on those who are poor as much as on those who possess many things, and whose attention is drawn to our simple petitions more than to long, eloquent prayers that seek to impress, we ask in these moments to lay aside our anxiety that we might hear and respond to your word and be empowered to live by it. AMEN.**

**The First Reading** *Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17* Diana Parham, Lay Reader

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left

you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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

**Psalter**

*Psalm 127*



Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
**Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the sentries keep vigil in vain.**  
It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil;  
for to his beloved, the Lord gives sleep.  
**Children are a heritage from the Lord,  
and the fruit of the womb, a reward.**  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.  
**Happy is the one who has his quiver full of them!  
He shall not be put to shame  
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. R**

**The Second Reading**

*Hebrews 9:24-28*

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

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

**Anthem**

*Give Thanks*

SMITH

**+Gospel Acclamation #2043**

*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

**+The Holy Gospel**

*Mark 12:38-44*

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.' He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

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

**Sermon**

*"Of Scribes and Widows"*

Rev. Rob Licht

**+Hymn #408**

*The Gift of Love*

GIFT OF LOVE

**+The Apostles' Creed**

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**Prayer of Confession**

**All-wise God, you know how much we enjoy being honored above others, and how often we resent the special respect others receive. You are aware of the shortcuts we take for our own advantage. You see the ways we pretend to be more than we are. You observe not only our actions but our motives as well. We need your help to put away all that is false and to discover our true identity as your children. Lift us up in your forgiving love, we pray. 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**

*Offertory In E Flat*

DUBOIS

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 #399**

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

MESSIAH

**+Dismissal with Blessing**

**+Congregational Response**

*Go Now in Peace*

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**+Taking God's Light Into The World**

**+Chiming of the Trinity**

**+Postlude**

*Nun danket alle Gott*

KOEHLER

*+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: 42  
Sunday school: 14



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:20 AM Sunday school

Monday: 9:00 AM meet at church for carpool to visit Rachael Ricks  
7:00 PM Administrative Council

Tuesday: 5:30 PM Sandwiches & Games at Mordecai's

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study  
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 9:00 AM Food delivery  
10:00 AM - noon Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Saturday: Choir retreat



## Our Gifts

Offerings last week: \$778.25

## 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: Leah O'Brien (east)  
Jill Russo (west)  
Ushers: Sherman Merchant (west)  
Bob Workman (west)  
Al Prescott (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

The **Beckham-Ransom circle will be traveling to visit Rachael Ricks** at the nursing home in Greenville on Monday. We will meet at the church at 9:00 AM & car pool from there. If you would like to join us, please contact Susan Merchant.

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

On Tuesday at 5:30pm, there will be **"Soup, Sandwiches & Games" at Mordecai's Restaurant**. Please join us for an evening of fun & fellowship. A basket will be passed to cover the cost of the meal.

The **choir will be having a retreat this Saturday** to continue working on the service of Lessons and Carols.

Once again the missions committee is collecting gift-filled shoe boxes and/or gift items for filling the shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. The deadline for items is November 15th.

Our free **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** will take place from noon - 2pm on Thanksgiving Day. *Everyone is invited!* If you would like to help or donate any food items, please contact Elizabeth Solovieff, Darla Angel, or Kaye Herman.

The **Fifth Sunday Brunch** for November has been **canceled**.

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