

Littleton United Methodist Church
November 15, 2009
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of the Word

Prelude *Shall We Gather At the River* WOOD
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: I saw a great vision in the night; I saw a new world coming, for the first had passed away.

People: **We heard a great voice in the night; we heard the Lord saying, "Be not alarmed. The end is not yet."**

Pastor: There is no rock like our God. The Lord gives courage to the faithful.

People: **The Lord reigns; let us rejoice and be glad!**

+Entrance Hymn #117 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

Prayer of the Day

Source of all wisdom, who in Jesus Christ offers to teach us the way of love, we have asked for signals and signs of your presence and your leading but have often been led astray by our own desires and interpretations. Testify to us now that we may hear your counsel above the clamor of other voices and, hearing, respond as you intend. AMEN.

The First Reading *1 Samuel 1:4-20* Gail Workman, Lay Reader

Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I

will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine." "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

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

The Canticle of Hannah

1 Samuel 2:1-10



My hearts exults in the Lord;
 my strength is exalted in my God.
 My mouth derides my enemies,
 because I rejoice in my victory.
There is none holy like the Lord,
there is none beside you,
There is no rock like our God.
 Talk no more so very proudly,
 let not arrogance come from your mouth.
For you, O Lord, are a God of knowledge,
and by you our actions are weighed. R

The bows of the mighty are broken,
 but the feeble gird on strength.
Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
 The barren has borne seven,
 but she who has many children is forlorn.
The Lord kills and brings to life;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up. R

You, O Lord, make poor and make rich;
you bring low and you also exalt.
**You raise up the poor from the dust,
and lift the needy from the ash-heap.**

You make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.

**For yours, O Lord, are the pillars of the earth
and on them you have set the world.**

You guard the feet of your faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
for not by might does one prevail.

The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.

**The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
He will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed.**

R

The Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-25

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

Anthem

Built on the Rock

HOELTY-NICKEL
Greg, Solovieff, soloist

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When

you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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

Sermon *“Hearing Hannah ”* Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #129 *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* FESTAL SONG

+The Apostles’ Creed Page 881
Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, we confess the arrogance of our doubts and the falsehood of our denials. We have neglected to pray and have forgotten to give thanks. Many activities have become more important to us than gathering for worship. Our busyness crowds out times of private prayer. We shake our heads at the evil around us but do little to witness to a better way. Your law is seldom consulted, and your pathways of self-sacrificing love rarely explored. Turn us around, God, Only you can meet our need. 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 *My Lord, What A Morning* SMITH

+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 #529 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response *Go Now in Peace* Page 665

+Taking God’s Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude *Soon and Very Soon* CROUCH

+The congregation will stand as you are able

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 52
Sunday school: 13



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

Monday: 1:30 PM Blanket Bee / Sewing Circle

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

Friday: 2:00 PM Warren Hills Nursing Home Birthday Party

Sunday (11/22): 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service

Our Gifts



The flowers today and last week were given
by Diana Parham
to the Glory of the Lord.

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: Loretta Woodburn (east)
Kaye Herman (west)
Ushers: Ed Angel (east)
Bob Workman (west)
Al Prescott (west)
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

Today is the deadline for gift items and shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**.

The **Blanket Bee / Sewing Circle** will meet on Monday at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

Next Sunday evening (11/22), there will be a **Community Thanksgiving Service** in our fellowship hall at 7:00 PM.

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.

Littleton UMC will be sponsoring a table at the **John 3:16 Banquet** on Friday, December 4th. If you are interested in attending the fundraising banquet (at no charge), please let Rob know as soon as possible. There are eight seats available at our sponsored table. That said, there are also additional seats available at other tables.

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