

Littleton United Methodist Church
November 29, 2009
The First Sunday of Advent
Service of the Word

Prelude *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying* J.S. BACH
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 *All Earth Is Waiting* Page 210

+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: The day foretold is coming,

People: **When our tired eyes will behold a fire, a blazing star in the eastern sky!**

Pastor: The one foretold is coming,

People: **Whose light will shine through the deepest gloom, a manger's glow in the silent night!**

Pastor: The day is at hand!

People: **World, keep watch!**

Pastor: The savior draws near!

People: **Praise the Lord!**

+Entrance Hymn #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Musical Response *One Candle Is Lit* CRADLE SONG

Prayer of the Day

O God, direct our attention above the turmoil of our times, beyond the distress of human greed. We look for signs that your realm is near, that your Word rules the world. Free us from the weight of heavy cares to bear your joyous truth into our relationships. Join us together in a spirit of thanksgiving and earnest prayer. AMEN.

The First Reading *Jeremiah 33:14-16* Marie Fields, Lay Reader

" 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. " 'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.' "

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

Psalter

Psalm 25:1-10



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust,
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

Let none that wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are clothed with treachery.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
**for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.**

R

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way,
and leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches them their way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep the Lord's covenant and
testimonies.**

R

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Come, My Light, My Life* BUTLER
+Gospel Acclamation #2043 *Alleluia* CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel *Luke 21:25-36*

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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

Sermon *"Pulling Back the Curtain"* Rev. Rob Licht
+Hymn #718 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* HELMSLEY
+The Apostles' Creed Page 881

Prayer of Confession

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. 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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* LACHENAUER

+The Doxology

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

CRANHAM

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates

TRURO

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

The King of Glory Comes

Page 2091

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

JONES

+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: 53



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

Monday: 10:00 AM decorate sanctuary & fellowship hall

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

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

Saturday 8:00—10:00 AM Breakfast with Santa

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$2,329.93

The flowers today were given
by Loretta and Judy Woodburn
in memory of their parents.

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)
Anna Brown (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

A big **“Thank you”** to all who helped out last week with our Community Thanksgiving Dinner, the Community Thanksgiving Service, and food deliveries to needy families.

Today is the deadline for **Poinsettia orders** and payments.

Monday at 10:00 AM, we will begin **decorating the Fellowship Hall & the Sanctuary for Christmas**. Please contact Marie Fields with any questions.

On Wednesday, the **Companions in Christ Bible Study** will be meeting to view the **movie “Mother Theresa”** at 10:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall. The whole congregation is invited to come, view the movie and engage in the discussion following. Please bring a packed lunch with you.

Our free **Family Movie Night** will be this Friday at 7:00 PM in our fellowship hall. This month's movie is Disney's #1 movie of 2009 - **“Up”**.

Littleton UMC will be sponsoring a table at the **John 3:16 Banquet** this Friday. 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.

Remember **Breakfast with Santa** is this Saturday from 8 - 10 AM in our fellowship hall. Come join us for breakfast before the parade.

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