

Littleton United Methodist Church
December 6, 2009
Second Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens
Service of the Word

Prelude *Pastoral Symphony* HANDEL
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 attendance 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: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: **With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

Pastor: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the Eternal Christ?

People: **With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

Pastor: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the Savior?

People: **With wreathes of holy and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**

Pastor: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

People: **By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

Pastor: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the World, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

+Entrance Hymn #211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (vs. 1-4) VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer of the Day

God of peace, whose ways are not our own and whose coming among us cannot be predicted, we dare to welcome your surprises, seeking to be awake and alert to fully embrace the unexpected, that we might be changed by your appearing and transformed into a peaceful, loving community, for the sake of your house. AMEN.

The First Reading *Jeremiah 23:5-6* Susannah Sherman, Lay Reader

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #202 *People, Look East* (vs. 1) BESANCON

The Second Reading *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7* Mandy Outman, Lay Reader
Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (vs. 5-7) VENI EMMANUEL

Psalter *Isaiah 53:1-6* Macon White

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
**He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.**
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
**He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.**
Like one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
**Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows.**
yet we considered him stricken by God
smitten by him, and afflicted.
**But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;**
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
**We all, like sheep have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
The iniquity of us all.**

Anthem *The Holly and the Ivy*

The Third Reading *John 1:1-5, 9-14* Macon White, Lay Reader
Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* HOUSTON

The Fourth Reading *Titus 3:4-7* Rev. Rob Licht

The Blessing of the Chrismon Tree

+The Apostles' Creed Page 881

Prayer of Confession

O Holy Lord of Hope, in this season of holy anticipation, hear us as we come to you with our humble hearts confessing the ways that we have blocked your peace in our lives. We have rushed and scurried to get things done without noticing the wondrous things you have done for us. We have worried about the little details without seeing the big picture. We have grown impatient and irritable, bickering and quarreling, because this season places stressors on our time and our pocketbooks. Though, we make ourselves less than peaceful at the time of year, your peace is always there for us. You stand ready to reconcile and forgive our sins, if we only ask. Forgive us this day. AMEN.

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

And the Glory of the Lord

HANDEL

+The Doxology #221

In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 4)

CRANHAM

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.

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

The Advent Intercessions

Pastor: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome Him.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord, you are ever among us. Open our eyes to your presence, that your Church may be true to its mission, that every congregation may proclaim your goodness, that all of us may show forth your glory.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: To the nations that are looking for freedom; to the peoples that are longing for liberty; to the individuals striving for justice; to all who are seeking to improve the world; to all who are seeking to improve themselves.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus**

Pastor: To our homes as we prepare for your coming, that the Keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love; to our loved ones as they reveal to us your care; to our work; that it may show forth your presence; into our leisure and into our pleasures.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: To all who long for release; to all who cry in pain; to the sick in body, in mind and in spirit; to those who can no longer cope, to all who are oppressed and in darkness; to all who watch and wait and weep

for you.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for your coming, that we may know that life is eternal; that loved ones departed are in your keeping; that we may rejoice in hope; that we may come to your glory, that this Advent season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus**

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Loving God, your church joyfully awaits for the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessing upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever Amen.

The Lighting of the Second Candle

Musical Response

One Candle is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace

The Lord's Prayer

Page 895

+Closing Hymn (insert)

How Great Our Joy

JUNGST

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

The King of Glory Comes

Page 2091

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

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: 61



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

Monday: 11:15 AM Trustees meeting
1:00 PM Mary Lucy Self Circle

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
Noon - Women in Christian Fellowship
7:00 PM Choir Practice

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

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$770.10

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: Betsy Medlin (east)
Peg Fowler (west)
Ushers: Matt Johnston (east)
Richard Sherman (west)
Matt Johnston (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 **decorating** the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. Also, thanks to all who helped with the **Santa Breakfast** yesterday.

The **Trustees** will meet on Monday at 11:15 at Casa Mia's restaurant.

The **Mary Lucy Self Circle** will meet in the board room on Monday at 1:00.

Women in Christian Fellowship will meet on Wednesday at noon in our fellowship hall. This will be the Christmas party and all ladies are invited. Please bring a dish to pass and a \$1 gift for the gift exchange. As the host church, we will be responsible for providing desserts and drinks. If you can bring a dessert, please let Helen Burtchell know.

The **Littleton ACTS Food Pantry** will be open on Friday from 10:00 AM until noon.

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