

**Littleton United Methodist Church**  
**December 13, 2009**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Service of Word and Table**

**Prelude** *He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd* 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: The day foretold is coming,

People: **When our bitter mouths will drink new wine, God's cup raised high at the kingdom's table!**

Pastor: The one foretold is coming,

People: **Whose bread will be broken in deepest gloom, a last supper shared on a silent night.**

Pastor: The day is at hand!

People: **World, feast!**

Pastor: The savior draws near!

People: **Praise the Lord!**

**+Entrance Hymn #203** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* ELLACOMBE

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Musical Response *One Candle Is Lit* CRADLE SONG

Come festively sing while awaiting the birth  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

**Prayer of the Day**

**God of our baptism, renew in us today the gifts of your Holy Spirit and fire. We have come together, eager for good news. We are here for instruction, ready to do the work you call us to do in the world. Equip us in this time of worship to draw deeply from the waters of salvation. Fill us with your love that we may pass it on. Recall us to truth and excellence and justice in all we say and do. AMEN.**

**The First Reading** *Zephaniah 3:14-20* Susannah Sherman, Lay Reader

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

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

**The First Canticle of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 12:2-6*



Surely God is my salvation;  
 I will trust, and not be afraid,  
**for the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
 He has become my salvation.**  
 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.  
 And you will say in that day:  
**Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;  
 make known his deeds among the nations;  
 proclaim that his name is exalted.**  
 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
 let this be known in all the earth.  
**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel** **R**

**The Second Reading**

*Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*When Will the Little King Come*

SCHRAM

**+Gospel Acclamation #2043**

*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

**+The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*"What Should We Do?"*

Rev. Rob Licht

**+The Apostles' Creed**

Page 881

**Prayer of Confession**

**O God, what shall we do? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, 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**

*Our Lord's Holy Table*

RITTER

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 #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**

**Hymn #209** *Blessed Be the God of Israel* MERLE'S TUNE

**The Great Thanksgiving** (Alternate Musical Setting) Bulletin Insert

**The Lord's Prayer** Page 895

**+Giving of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer After Communion**

**EtEternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Through all we have seen and heard and seen in this sacrament, may we do unto others. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

**+Closing Hymn #221** *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM

**+Dismissal with Blessing**

**+Congregational Response** *The King of Glory Comes* Page 2091

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

**+Chiming of the Trinity**

**+Postlude** *O Thou That Telleth Good Tidings* HANDEL

*+The congregation will stand as you are able*

**\*\* Communion rail offerings are designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.**

**\*\* Printed copies of the sermon are available after the service in each narthex.**

## Our Presence

Attendance last week  
Worship service: 66



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:20 AM Sunday school
- Monday: 10:00 AM Beckham Ramson Circle—silver cleaning at church, then  
meeting at Kay Newsom's home  
7:00PM Administrative Council
- Tuesday: *Newsletter article deadline!*
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- Friday: 2:00 PM - Warren Hills Nursing Home birthday party  
10:00 - noon Littleton ACTS Food Pantry
- Saturday: 10:00 AM UMW Christmas Party
- Sunday (12/20) 5:00 PM Christmas Concert  
6:30 PM Christmas Fellowship Supper



## Our Gifts

Offerings last week: \$4,568,25

## 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: Marj Prescott (east)  
Susan Merchant (west)  
Ushers: Matt Johnston (east)  
Richard Sherman (west)  
Bob Workman (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

The **Beckham Ransom Circle** will meet on Monday at 10:00am at the church to clean silver. The meeting will follow at Kay Newsom's home

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

The **deadline for articles for the Jan/Feb newsletter** is Tuesday.

The **UMW** will have their **Christmas Party** at 10:00 am on Saturday in the fellowship hall.

A **SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** for Christmas will be presented by our choir on Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. Please join us for this special music, **followed by the Christmas Fellowship Supper** in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to pass.

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