

**Littleton United Methodist Church  
December 20, 2009  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Service of the Word**

**Prelude**

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*

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**+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 sleeping hearts will stir again, entrusting their hope to swaddling clothes!**

Pastor: The one foretold is coming,

People: **Whose touch will dispel the deepest gloom, God's hand holding ours in the silent night!**

Pastor: The day is at hand!

People: **World, feel!**

Pastor: The savior draws near!

People: **Praise the Lord!**

**+Entrance Hymn #250**

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Musical Response

*One Candle Is Lit*

CRADLE SONG

Come wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day.  
A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

**Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, whose coming to us in Jesus Christ we celebrate with joy and whose mercy is from generation to generation, visit us today to restore our memory of all your goodness to us. Trample our vanities and lift up our crushed and timid spirits so we all can participate fully and equally in the inheritance we have received from your hand. AMEN.**

**The First Reading**

*Micah 5:2-5a*

Darla Angel, Lay Reader

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

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

**The Canticle of Mary**      *Luke 1:46b-55*



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**  
**who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:  
**the Almighty has done great things for me**  
**and holy is the name of the Lord,**  
**whose mercy is one those who fear God**  
**from generation to generation.**

The arm of the Lord is strong,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
**God has cast down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and lifted up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,**  
**remembering the promise of mercy,**  
**the promise made to our forebears,**  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.      R**

**The Second Reading**      *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.' " First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your

will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

**Anthem** *Come, Emmanuel* PRICE/BESIG

**+Gospel Acclamation #2043** *Alleluia* CELTIC ALLELUIA

**+The Holy Gospel** *Luke 1:39-45*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

**Sermon** *"A Conspiracy of Hope "* Rev. Rob Licht

**+Hymn #200** *Tell Out, My Soul* WOODLANDS

**+The Apostles' Creed** Page 881

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, when we sense who you are, we are ashamed. How do you tolerate our pettiness? The abundance you have given us has made us proud more than thankful. We act as if our accomplishments were all our own doing. We seldom acknowledge your generosity or let you rule our lives. We go through the forms of worship, but we try to keep you at a safe distance. We fill our lives with status-producing activity that blocks out your call and limits our response. O God, we need to change. Will you help us? 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**

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 (verse 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  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer

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## **+Closing Hymn #202**

*People, Look East*

BESANCON

## **+Dismissal with Blessing**

### **+Congregational Response**

*The King of Glory Comes*

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

### **+Chiming of the Trinity**

### **+Postlude**

*+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: 59



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:20 AM Sunday school  
5:00 PM Christmas Concert  
6:30 PM Christmas Fellowship Supper

Monday: *No Sewing Circle/Blanket Bee this month*

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

Thursday: 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Friday: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



## Our Gifts

Offerings 12/6: \$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: Jean Houston (east)  
Barbara Reinhardt (west)  
Ushers: Matt Johnston (east)  
Richard Sherman (west)  
Jack May (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

We welcome **Janet Weaver** as our **guest flutist** today.

A **SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** for Christmas will be presented by our choir this evening 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.

The **Sewing Circle / Blanket Bee** will not meet this month. They will meet next on January 18th.

On Thursday there will be a **Christmas Eve Service** at 7:00 PM.

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