

**Littleton United Methodist Church
December 27, 2009
The First Sunday After Christmas
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

He Is Born

Page 228

+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: We who knelt in the stable-

People: **Let us come and kneel in the temple!**

Pastor: Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

People: **Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!**

Pastor: O children, enter the house of the Lord!

People: **Enter God's presence, and be reborn!**

+Entrance Hymn #246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Prayer of the Day

All-knowing God, whose favor rested on Jesus of Nazareth and whose love is poured out for all of humankind, inspire us here to ask questions, to pursue understanding, and to share our faith. May we grown in wisdom, respond to your blessing, and reach out to minister to and with your children- our brothers and sisters. Send the peace of Christ to rule among us, uniting our hearts in thankfulness and praise. AMEN.

The First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Mike Herman, Lay Reader

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD -a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD." Then they would go home. And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 148



Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise the Lord, in the heights!

**Praise the Lord, all his angels,
praise the Lord, all his hosts!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon,
praise the Lord, all shining stars!

**Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
and all waters above the heavens!**

R

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded and they were created,
**who established them for ever and ever,
and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
Sea monsters and all deeps,
**fire and hail, snow and smoke,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

R

Mountains and all hills,
Fruit trees and all cedars!
**Beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
**Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name alone is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.

**God has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful ones,
for the people of Israel who are near their God.
Praise the Lord!**

R

The Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

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

Anthem

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LEAVITT

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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

"Who Is He?"

Helen Burtchell

+Hymn #218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

+The Apostles' Creed

Page 881

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we have wandered away to pursue our own agenda. We have laid aside your expectation that we will forbear one another and forgive. We harbor grudges against people. There are some we neglect and some we disdain. We have viewed them neither as your beloved nor as our sisters and brothers. The peace of Christ does not rule in our hearts. Your truth is not what flows from our lips or finds expression in our actions. O God, turn us around, that what we do may be a genuine expression of your love, through Jesus Christ. **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

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Dona Nobis Pacem

Page 376

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

+The congregation will stand as you are able

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 57



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

Wednesday: *Bible Study canceled!*
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Our Gifts



Offerings 12/13:	\$1,719.00
Offerings 12/20:	\$1,677.83

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: Marie Fields (east)
Maj Johnston (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** again today.

Bible Study is canceled this Wednesday.

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